

Royal School of Mines.

LECTURES ON MINERALOGY—No. IV.

[BY OUR SPECIAL REPORTER.]

The subject of Prof. SMYTH's fourth lecture was the "ORES OF COPPER." In selecting the ores of copper we are dealing with substances which have given to man for thousands of years past one of the metals which he has found among the most important. If we regard the history of copper from a mineralogical point of view, we shall be inclined to enquire what was the particular ore from which mankind in that first dawn of civilisation obtained the metal. In the sacred writings we are told that Tubal Cain (probably a representative man) was the first person to turn to account copper and sun-ry other metals, and the question arises from whence Tubal Cain in his inland district derived his materials. From other writings also we are led to believe that copper was one of the first of the metals which man employed. If we visit a copper mining district at the present day we shall usually see the ores obtained from great depths, under considerable difficulties from water and bad air, and presenting an appearance very unlike the metal itself. We should scarcely expect, therefore, that it was from any such substances that copper was first obtained. There is, however, in old workings some difficulty about the meaning of the terms used; the Greeks used the word "chalcos," and in some places it seems to mean copper, in others it more probably refers to an alloy containing copper. Similarly the Romans had a word "aes," which sometimes meant copper and sometimes an alloy of copper and tin, to which we now give the name "gun-metal." This alloy a large proportion of ancient coins were made. Most probably copper was originally obtained from supplies of the native metal. This native or metallic copper occurs in some instances beautifully crystallised, in forms belonging to the cubic system, either in cubes or octahedrons, and with a tendency for a number of these crystals to join themselves together into long branches or strings. Copper occurs in this condition at the Lizard Point, in Cornwall, in connection with the rock called serpentine; but although large masses have been found (of which the finest was presented to the Geological Museum by the last company), it has not there given rise to profitable workings. This is one of the places where it is not improbable that copper might have been obtained from the surface of the ground; and it may easily be imagined how a savage might discover that a piece of such a substance could be beaten out by means of a stone, and shaped into useful articles, and by a few further experiments might even ascertain that it could be melted and cast. Hence it is that we find in the graves, &c., of the early people of this and other countries various articles fashioned out of pure copper. There are some other districts which may have furnished our early ancestors with metallic copper at or near the surface, but the lecturer did not think they were many; and after visiting a large proportion of the copper mines of Great Britain, as well as many on the Continent, and some in Asia, he must confess that he was at a loss to understand how the original civilisers of mankind were able to obtain such large quantities of copper as we know they possessed, both from descriptions and from the remains in their tombs. In the Urals and in Siberia the inhabitants who lived there hundreds or thousands of years ago seem to have reached a much higher civilisation than the present nomadic inhabitants, and to have especially practised the art of mining; and in some cases their graves have been found full of weapons, offensive and defensive, and all made of copper. Numerous of their old workings exist, seeming to show that a great deal of native copper was obtained near the surface, but that in depth it gave way to other materials, which were much more difficult to deal with in order to obtain copper from them.

The district of Lake Superior, in North America, especially on the side of the United States, is a remarkable one for the production of immense quantities of native copper; and it is also remarkable as being the only case we have in the world, at the present time, where this native copper is found both at the surface and continuing to a great depth into the ground. Large masses have been followed downwards which would weigh 40 or 50 tons in one single piece. At first the workings threatened to be unsuccessful, as long as the tough material was attempted to be obtained by the pick or by blasting; but the simple method of cutting it with hammer and chisel has rendered the works a very great success. Curiously enough, in this district also we have traces of an ancient civilisation which has passed away, and which even preceded the time of the Red Indians (who, as far as we know, use no copper implements, for example), and there is tolerably clear evidence of mines having been worked in those ancient days. There are certain crater-like openings—the remains of shafts—and waste heaps on which trees of several hundred years growth now stand. Moreover, in these cavities curious stone hammers are found, and other sharper tools, which were probably employed as wedges. And on some of the hills in Cardiganshire and Montgomeryshire, in our own island, remains of very old workings for lead occur, in and among the rubbish heaps of which worn stone hammers are found, so like those previously mentioned that it would be difficult to distinguish between them. And in the Kilkenny district, in Ireland, certain rounded stones of a very similar character have been discovered in connection with excavations by a very ancient people.

Native copper is very readily attacked and destroyed by certain chemical agents; rain water, for example, holding carbonic and other acids in solution, will act on the copper, dissolve it, and carry it away. And thus it may have existed at the surface at one time in many districts where it does not now exist. It may thus be carried away into the streams, or else be carried down to fresh depths, and there deposited in another form. In many mining localities these products are met with, showing that this decomposition and recombination has been taking place. One form in which it is met with in water is that of the sulphate of copper. Sir Isaac Newton, in some of his papers, speaks of having read of a certain mine in Hungary (Herrngrund), at the foot of the Carpathians, where if you put a piece of iron into the water it was changed into copper. This statement of the great philosopher has been ridiculed of late years, but without reason, for the fact of copper being substituted for iron is perfectly true. The correct statement in the language of our times is that the iron is dissolved by the water, and in its place there is deposited a chemically equivalent quantity of copper. Large quantities of copper are obtained from two British localities by this very (cementation) process, the localities being Anglesea and the county of Wicklow. In these places water which has percolated through large masses of poor copper ore has carried away so much copper in solution that on being brought to the surface it is collected in wooden troughs, and led over pieces of scrap iron, which is gradually dissolved, and its place taken by pure sponge copper.

Next to native copper in richness of the metal comes the ore known as "ruby copper," so called from its crystals (when it occurs crystallised), exhibiting a beautiful ruby-red tint when the light falls on them in a proper direction, otherwise they have a very metallic appearance. It is a compound of two equivalents of copper and one of oxygen, and contains 88·9 per cent. of metallic copper, sometimes it occurs more disguised, having a much more earthy appearance, and the lecturer had sometimes seen it employed for mending, in ignorance of its great value.

There is another oxide of copper—the "black oxide"—which consists of one equivalent of copper to one of oxygen, and consequently is not so rich as the last, but is still a rich ore, and is carefully preserved, so that the rain may not carry it away, since it usually occurs in the form of a powder.

Next follows a substance known as "copper glances," or "Red-ruthite," as well as other names. It is a sulphide of copper, and occurs crystallised in the prismatic system. No district in the world has produced such beautiful crystallised specimens as the Cornish mines. It is of a dark-grey colour, brittle, but rather soft, so that it can be cut with a knife. It is sometimes called "vitreous copper ore," because the crystals when broken across show a fracture looking much like a piece of glass. It is a very rich ore, containing 79·8 per cent. of copper. These ores are not of frequent

occurrence, or very abundant; the most important places are the extreme South-West of Cornwall, near the town of Redruth, in Tuscany, and in the South-East of Hungary.

Next we come to an ore which for a long time was obtained in very limited quantities, and applied in great part to ornamental purposes, but of late years large quantities have been brought from Australia and other countries, and it is now recognised as a very valuable ore of copper. This is known by the name of "malachite." It is a compound of carbonic acid with oxide of copper, together with a portion of water: it contains about 57 per cent. of copper. It is more apt to occur at the surface than any of the above ores of copper, and for this reason in many places it has been in a great measure worked away. It occurs in the South-West of Ireland (where it may be seen in places forming large stains on the cliffs, leading some to suppose that large masses of the ore exist there), in Cornwall, North Wales, Hungary, and the Urals; but the mines of Australia, and notably the Burra Burra Mines, yield the largest quantities of it. Livingstone showed that it also exists in parts of Africa. A mineral of very similar composition is known as the "azurite," from the beautiful blue colour of its crystals: it is a carbonate of copper, and has been formed under much the same circumstances as malachite. In the middle ages some of the painters used it instead of ultramarine, but it is apt in the course of time to become green. The effect of a picture with a sky painted blue with this substance, and then in time undergoing this change, can well be imagined.

Another ore of copper is known as "purple copper ore," or "Erythrite," but the most abundant copper ore, and the most important by far to us in Great Britain, is that called "copper pyrites." It is a brassy yellow looking substance, moderately hard, but capable of being scratched with a knife. In its purest condition it contains only a little over 34 per cent. of copper. In some cases it forms masses of from 1 ft. to 18 ft. in width, more or less mingled with quartz; and in one remarkable case—that of the Great Devon Consols Mine—it occurred like a vertical wall, worth extracting to a width of 30 ft. It is never found nearer the surface than from 60 ft. to 200 ft. Although the veins go up to the surface they contain no copper, and yet we are led to believe that it did once exist there, but has been carried away in solution, owing to a natural process of decomposition. As an example of this decomposition, the lecturer referred to a case in Cornwall where profitable malachite workings were carried on in the sand of the seashore, the malachite having been deposited in a stalactitic form in this calcareous sand from water which had percolated through old waste heaps containing much copper pyrites.

In conclusion, the lecturer referred to the remarkable change which in recent years has come over our copper trade. For something like 160 years Great Britain has been at the head of the copper-producing countries of the world, and had, in fact, commanded the copper markets. The extraordinary discoveries in Anglesea and at Ecton in Staffordshire, about 1780, almost spoiled the copper trade of the entire world, so enormous were the quantities produced by these two districts. In 1800 the value of the copper ores raised in Devon and Cornwall was 490,000£; in 1820 it had risen to 600,000£; there was a gradual increase, till about 1860 the value was more than 1,500,000£. Suddenly there was a great fall to 700,000£ in 1865, and in 1875 to less than half that amount.

Lectures on Practical Mining in Germany.

CLAUSTRAL MINING SCHOOL NOTES—No. XV.*

BY J. CLARK JEFFERSON, A.R.S.M., W.H. SC.,

Certified Mining Engineer.

(Formerly Student at the Royal Bergakademie, Clausthal).

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SECTION II.

PROSPECTING FOR MINERALS—BORING.

I.—PRELIMINARY PRECAUTIONS AND ARRANGEMENTS.

A.—Precautions and arrangements for preserving a vertical direction during boring.

During the commencement of boring, above all, care must be taken to keep the hole in a vertical direction. If in the commencement a bore-hole is kept truly vertical there will be but little difficulty in preserving the vertical direction to any desired depth. The most usual arrangement is that of guides or a guiding tube, which are fixed at the bottom of the bore-shaft.

1.—BORE-SHAFT: When there exists already a cesteaming pit of several fathoms in depth this may be used as a bore-shaft. Such a shaft is generally rectangular in section, and divided into two partitions, one for the raising of the earth, &c., and the other for the miners.

In order to occasion as few alterations as possible the position of the hole to be bored is usually in the centre of the division used for the conveyance of the earth, &c., to the surface. If the section of the shaft is very considerable the centre of the bore-hole is brought until it is somewhat more than 3 ft. from the shorter side of the partition. Is the shaft of smaller dimensions it must be enlarged until on each of two opposite sides a segment (50°) of a circle of 3 ft. in radius can be described. The object of this is to have sufficient room for fixing the guides and turning the long keys, which are used for screwing and unscrewing the rods.

In order to determine the centre of the bore-hole at the bottom of the shaft a plank is fixed across the uppermost frame (or crib) of the bore-shaft, two pieces of string are stretched diagonally from the four corners of the partition, and at their intersection a small hole is bored through the plank, and through which the string of a plummet is passed, the lower end of the plummet fixing the position of the bore-hole at the bottom of the shaft.

When it is necessary purposely to sink a bore-shaft, the following considerations are of importance in choosing the situation of the shaft. The surface area will depend on the size and depth of the intended bore-hole. If possible it should be near a good road, and in the neighbourhood of the nearest village, and not in low-lying ground, where it might be subjected to floods; this latter precaution is of great importance when searching for beds of rock salt. If there are any streams in the neighbourhood which can be used for driving the machinery, so much the better. The character of the surface ground or strata should also be taken into account, as on this mainly will depend the cost of the shaft.

The cross section of the shaft is usually from 6 to 7 ft. square inside the timbering. The shaft is timbered in the usual manner, and the earth which is obtained in excavating the shaft is used for levelling the floor of the bore-house, which, as we shall afterwards see, is necessary for straightening the rods.

A deep shaft is of great use for the latter operations; the staging, which would otherwise be necessary, is avoided, and, besides, it could never be made so steady against the constant vibrations to which it is subjected, as the guides, &c., which are fixed inside the shaft. Beside, in winter the shaft is much warmer, and also the iron rods and tools which the miners are constantly using can be kept warm, which is of considerable advantage to the miners.

The sinking of the bore-shaft is usually carried on considerably in advance of the other works—so that in case of great obstacles a new place of operations might be selected without too great a sacrifice of time and money; and then first when the strata promise to be suitable to commence the erection of the staging, guides, bore-house, &c. The shaft is generally continued 2 ft. or 3 ft. after water has been met with, so as to have a ready and plentiful supply, which is necessary for the operations. The shaft sump should be in sufficiently strong strata for inserting and fixing the bore-tube. If the strata in the lower part of the shaft are too hard and expensive to work, or quicksand, &c., is met with (unless it be not too deep and the underlying strata suitable) then the staging must be extended for some height above the surface of the ground. In the latter case the sinking of the shaft through the quicksand will be expensive, and, if it

is of any thickness, there may be some difficulty in fixing the guides and bore-tube, so that they shall remain perfectly vertical.

The length of a set of boring-rods may be made dependent on the depth of the shaft, or the depth of the latter on the length of a set. The depth in the latter case must not be less than the length of a set of rods, plus the length of the guiding bore-tube. The deeper the bore-shaft the greater is the length of a set of rods, and, consequently, less time will be spent in screwing and unscrewing the rods, which is of very considerable advantage with deep bore-holes.

2.—The guiding bore-tube is usually made of wood, and for ordinary sized bore-holes in two pieces. When, however, the diameter of the bore-hole and, therefore, that of the guiding bore-tube is considerable it is made of several pieces fastened together like the staves of a cask. For a bore-hole intended to be about 70 fms. deep, part of the trunk of a tree (pine or fir), about 12 ft. long and 15 in. diameter, is used; it is first made uniformly round, and then sawn along its middle into two equal semi-cylinders. Each half is then hewn with a round hatchet, so that when the two are afterwards fastened together by means of iron rings or screw clips, they form a hollow cylinder 15 in. in exterior and 9 in. in interior diameter. The two halves are sometimes fitted together with a grooved and tongued joint. Except in the case of salt springs or beds, it is not necessary that the guiding bore tube should be water-tight. The length of the guiding bore tube varies from 3 to 20 ft. or more; the diameter is determined by the greatest diameter of the bore-hole, which it must always exceed. The usual diameter of bore-holes varies from 5 to 9 in.; that of the guiding bore tube may vary from 8 to 11 in. in exterior diameter.

With regard to the upper part of the guiding bore tube, we shall complete our description later when describing the bore tube shutter. The lower part is usually provided with a shoe, made of strong sheet iron, to prevent injury to the lower part of the guiding bore tube; is the guiding bore tube to be rammed down, then the shoe is best made entirely of iron, and steelied at the edge; it must also be fitted flush with the outside of the tube. The lengths of piping used in the mines for pumping purposes can often be used in constructing the guiding bore tube.

Two such lengths of piping may be advantageously joined together, a block of wood, "the bore-bank," 3 in. thick, being attached to the uppermost flange to protect the top of the tube, and to which the bore-shutter can be fixed. The bottom flange has the shoe bolted to it, and in order to be able to fix it more steadily the lower extremity of the tube is lagged with wood, fastened with two iron hoops.

After the completion of the sinking of the shaft and the fixing of the timbering the guiding bore-tube is next fixed in its place. The centre of the bore-hole is marked exactly on the bottom of the shaft, and a round hole corresponding to the lower part of the guiding bore-tube is then excavated, and the bore-tube is carefully lowered into its place, and fixed in a truly vertical position by temporary wedging against the side of the shaft, but is permanently wedged in the hole. The next step is to construct the working scaffold or floor, which has also to serve as a permanent support to the upper portion of the guiding bore-tube. This should be placed at about 2 to 2½ ft. below the top of the guiding bore-tube, as being the most convenient distance for handling the tools, &c. Two stumps, 9 in. square, are wedged tight in corresponding notches against two opposite sides of the shaft, and are placed just sufficiently wide apart to embrace the guiding bore-tube; two other stumps are similarly fixed upon and at right angles to the first, and the guiding bore-tube is wedged tight between these stumps. The scaffolding consists of planking laid across the upper stumps and resting at the ends on a couple of bearers wedged close against the sides. When this is completed the temporary wedging is taken away.

After the fixing of the guiding bore-tube, or at the same time if convenient, the guides for the rods are inserted. The guides consist of two wooden stumps, about 4½ in. broad and 4 in. deep, which for a length of about 1 ft. in the middle are widened on one side to 6 in. in width. In the middle both stumps are notched, so that when joined together they form a square opening through which the rods pass. The position of this opening should be accurately marked when the two stumps are already fixed in position. The guide stumps are held in position between two upright props fixed at the ends between two adjoining sets of shaft stumps, by means of an iron cotter, or, still better, they may be wedged to the horizontal shaft stumps by means of two grooved wedges. The two guide stumps may be held together by iron clamps. The number of sets of guide stumps will depend on the depth of the shaft, &c., but each set is fixed at right angles to the adjoining sets (above or below). It will very often happen that the joints of two rods will require to occupy the position of the opening in one or other of the stumps. In this case the wedge is simply withdrawn, and the two stumps are pushed sufficiently apart to allow the joint to pass through.

Is the ground below the surface alluvium of a loose nature, or a quicksand, then the bore shaft, provided the quicksand be not too thick, must be carried through to the underlying stronger strata, in order to be able to fix the guiding bore tube securely. This will occasion some difficulty in keeping the guiding bore tube perfectly vertical whilst it is being rammed down. For this purpose during the ramming it should be fixed between strong guides, fixed at the bottom of the shaft. When it is determined beforehand to line the bore-hole, the lining can be used, and, in fact, becomes a guiding bore-tube.

B.—Arrangements at the surface for performing the boring operations. These we shall consider under four distinct heads—1. The arrangements for transmitting the blow or up and down movement to the rods, &c.—that is, the boring machine proper.—2. The arrangements for raising and lowering the rods, and the construction of the bore tower.—3. The arrangements for removing the debris from the bottom of the bore-hole; and lastly, the smithy and workshop.

1.—The arrangements for transmitting the up and down movement to the boring rods.

The oldest and simplest of these, and one which is yet capable of doing good service in the case of bore-holes of moderate dimensions, is the ordinary windlass and rope. The rope is usually of hemp, from ½ in. to ¾ in. in diameter, and the barrel of the windlass 6 in. to 9 in. in diameter. According to the weight of the rods to be raised the rope is coiled two or three times round the barrel of the windlass, and by means of the windlass handle the boring tool is raised from 8 in. to 12 in., in order to allow it to fall. This occurs in the following manner:—One of the workmen pulls at the loose end of the windlass rope, by which the friction between the rope and the barrel may be made so great as to prevent the former slipping when the barrel is rotated in order to raise the rods. When the borer has been raised to the proper height the man who holds the end of the rope slackens suddenly out to somewhat more than the amount of fall, when the rods suddenly drop down with their whole weight to the bottom of the bore-hole. When the rods have reached the bottom the man pulls the end of the rope tight again, and on continuing to turn the barrel the rods are again raised, the rope is again slackened out, and another blow follows. As an example of this method may be mentioned a bore-hole at the Theresa Pit, at Rakonitz, in Bohemia. The bore-hole was 3 in. in diameter, and completed in 110 (12-hour) shifts to a depth of 70 yards; at first only four men and afterwards six men being employed in the shift. The upper 40 yards of the rods being ¾ in. square, the rest 1 in. square, the barrel of the windlass was 6 in. in diameter, the rope ¾ in. diameter, and the lift varied from 8 in. to 13 in. The shaft, which had already been sunk to a depth of 30 yards, was used as a bore-shaft. In the present day, however, this arrangement, notwithstanding its simplicity and readiness of construction, is only used for very small borings, the loss of time and small efficiency being its outweighing disadvantages.

Formerly a spring pole was much used for exploratory boring in England and Westphalia. This consisted of a long stem of a tree, 68 ft. to 70 ft. in length, which was firmly fixed at the root end into the ground, and at two-thirds of its length from the end is supported on a block of wood placed on an earth wall. At about 6 ft. from the end a hook is fastened to the pole, from which the boring-rods are suspended by means of a short chain; at the extremity a cross handle is fixed for the workmen, and foot-boards are placed on

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MARCH

the ground; the life rods; the life of the pole w fifty and more wooden sup shallow depth hole cannot be gular turning in the bottom. The next a the depth of the ground become great heavy bolts w mechanical ordinary pro straight lever rods are attached simple arra deep, and 8 t hole the labor machines mu respondingly woods are st them of fir be healthy, a tarally depen the size of the example, we with the app in search of the length of the 1 to 58, which with a diamet the depth of the same for the tail of the b depth of 83 in an elliptical varying inclin hook must b it must be rea a eye, through a metal bu

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the ground. This arrangement only allows of boring with rigid rods; the lift can only be very small—that is a high as the spring of the pole will raise it; the rapidity of the blow is very great, fifty and more to the minute. As the bore-hole becomes deeper the wooden support must be moved nearer to the end of the pole. For shallow depths and in easy strata this method is still used, but for bore-holes of considerable size and depth it is not advisable. The hole cannot be relied upon as being straight, since there is no regular turning round of the tool, which rather dances up and down in the bottom of the bore-hole.

The next arrangement we have to consider is the bore lever. As the depth of a bore-hole increases, so must the weight of the rods become greater and greater, and in order to be able to handle these heavy tools with ease and rapidity recourse must be had to some mechanical arrangement; the simplest and most efficient for the ordinary process of boring is the bore lever, which is essentially a straight lever with unequal arms, to the shorter of which the boring rods are attached, the workmen taking hold of the longer arm. This simple arrangement suffices for bore-holes of upwards of 200 fms. deep, and 8 to 10 in. in diameter. With a greater size and depth of hole the labour becomes too heavy and expensive for men, and boring machines must then be introduced. As the lever has sometimes to support a very considerable weight, it must be made of some correspondingly strong material, and although oak and some other woods are stronger, still it has been found in practice best to make them of fir. The tree stem which is chosen for this purpose must be healthy, and as free as possible from knots; the length will naturally depend much on the weight to be borne. Whatever may be the size of the lever, the construction is essentially the same. As an example, we shall describe a bore lever, used by Mr. Beer, in boring with the application of a free falling apparatus to a depth of 150 fms., in search of coal at Rakonitz, near Prague, in Bohemia. The total length of the lever was 183 ft., the relation of the two arms being as 1 to 58, which was increased to 1 to 9 at the depth of 450 ft., and with a diameter of hole between 4 to 6 in. At the head of the lever the depth of the beam is 12 in. by 8 in. broad; this section remains the same for a length of 5 ft., when it narrows gradually to the tail of the beam, where the press handle is fixed, having there a depth of 8 in., and a breadth of 7 in. The lever hook passes through an elliptically bored hole in the lever head, in order that with a varying inclination of the lever it may always remain vertical. This hook must be most carefully made, and if any flaw is detected in it it must be removed and repaired. The upper end of the hook has a eye, through which a cross piece of bar iron passes; this latter rests in a metal bearing fixed on to the upper portion of the lever head.

A PIECE OF COAL.

Prof. WILLIAMSON, F.R.S., of Owen's College, Manchester, lectured on Tuesday at Barnsley, taking for his subject "A Piece of Coal," to hear which there was a large audience. The Professor said that there was clear proof that the district they were in during the early period of the formation of the carboniferous measure was under the sea, and if they went to Edinburgh they would find the coal fields there to be of the same age as the limestones of Yorkshire and Derbyshire. There they had in place of these limestones a rich series of coal deposits, which were once the sites of magnificent and flourishing forests. If they went to France they would find at St. Etienne that they were in the same position with respect to coal as they were at Edinburgh. They invariably found that beds of coal rested on a rough, bluish-grey clay, which was generally known by the name of fire-clay, for the reason that it is the best material for making fire-bricks of. That clay, upon which every seam of coal both in this country and America rested, had evidently something to do with the formation of the coal itself. The discovery of the association of the two was made by Sir W. Logan, who further pointed out that in the fire-clay there existed enormous quantities of very peculiar plants, known as stigmaria. Then there were leaves to be found which had been turned into coal. We have discovered that leaves and wood can be converted into coal, but there was another proof that came nearer home. The Romans found out the beauty of Whitby jet. Jet is another form of coal, which they would easily see by putting a piece of it under the microscope. Seams of coal vary in thickness, some of the lowest near Halifax being very thin. In America there were seams 30 ft. in thickness, some by the side of a river—but how did the plant get there? Some of our navigators had noticed the fact that in sailing in the Gulf of Mexico large masses of vegetable matter, rafts of trees and branches, had been brought down by the Mississippi, washed away by floods from the banks of the river, and carried into mid-ocean. When these rafts became so thoroughly water-logged that they could float no longer down they went to the bottom, and these navigators came to the conclusion that that process was the history of the formation of coal. But this explanation did not satisfy everybody. Some people, however, were of opinion that the explanation would be found in the history of our peat bogs. Some light was thrown on the matter in the making of the railway between Bolton and Manchester, by Mr. Hawkshaw, the engineer.

In superintending the work he found at Clifton some fossil trees standing on the coal, the roots coming down to the coal. The stem was not less than 12 ft. in circumference, with enormous roots. It was clear that these trees had grown where Mr. Hawkshaw found them, standing in the precise spot where the seeds were shed millions of years ago, shooting up and growing age after age. Consequently it was fully established that coal was made of various matters contributed by trees where it was found. In Lancashire they had from 20 to 30 beds of coal, and how did they get there? The levels of land and sea were constantly changing, and were changing at the present time. The old sea-line can be traced high up on the Swedish and Norwegian Mountains. It was the same in South America. If they went to the middle of the Pacific Ocean, where thousands of years ago there were high continents, the levels were going down, wherever they had volcanoes in an active state the land was rising, and wherever they had corals forming their reefs the land was lowering. If they went to the sea coast between Manchester and Liverpool they would find a submarine forest, with stumps of trees washed over by the tide. The land there was sunk and the salt water is washing the mud over the area, gradually filling up the places, so coal would be formed years ago. The same thing existed formerly, and the sea had covered forests with fine mud, and the quality of the coals depended on the kind of routine they were subjected to. With regard to the various qualities, they would notice that whilst the floor of the bed was always the same fire-clay, the roof varies a great deal. In some places it was a dense blue clay, in others a sandstone, and the beds themselves broken and shattered by some tremulous action by a marvellous and mysterious arrangement. If those strata had remained in horizontal layers they would have been far out of the reach of man, but by some mysterious power they are turned up and twisted and brought near to the surface. They were brought within reach because there had been wonderful agents at work which tore up the earth's crust, and there are no strata so ancient but had been brought to the surface at some point. Such had not resulted from any volcanic action, but from shrinkings and contractions which the earth's crust had undergone.

The earth cooled down and shrank, so that fissures were made in the earth's crust, and it was a great blessing to all of them that it did. If those coal beds had swept along with a continuous sweep unbroken by faults no human machinery that was ever invented could have kept the mines from being drowned out with water. The faults enabled the coal strata to remain dry, and allowed the collier to work. It was sometimes found as the coal is being worked on getting to a fault that the quality deteriorated, and when worked away from the fault it improved. That he considered depended on the nature of the material which filled up the faults. The faults represented a mass of rocks that were cracked through. There was a great fault running near to Bolton, one side of which was lifted 1000 ft. above the other, and this could not have been done without producing a mass of ground-up material, and, therefore, if that mass which filled up the crack of the throw consisted of a porous material, the gases of the coal would escape through it, and so the coal would

be of a worse quality. The faults, as well as the roof, have had their influence on the composition of the coal. They saw what had taken place—the vegetable mass, in the first instance, had a uniform composition, but it gradually became altered. The changes took place atom by atom; a little gas was let in, then a little more, and so on, the change going on during thousands, or it might be millions, of years, so thoroughly permeating the whole mass that they could see how the operation had gone on through those years when the more volatile gases escaped where the roof was porous. Whereas if everything was the reverse the coal would approach more nearly to the composition of wood. They thus learnt that the reason why coal had different qualities depended altogether upon how far the original gases had been retained by the coal, and how far the more volatile of them had been lost and passed away entirely. So much for the qualities of the coal, and as to the tree of which coal was formed. The forests were different to the forests of the present day. The forests of to-day consisted of oak, ash, and so on, but none of the trees that existed in the coal age ever represented any of those trees. The trees that produced the great bulk of the coal were the representatives of things that are still growing around them, but on a very dwarfed scale. Botanists are familiar with ferns and mosses, and those classes of plants represent the largest plants which furnished the material of which coal consisted. There was no class of plants that had lived through so long a period of time and undergone so little change in their organisation as ferns. They had vast masses of ferns in the coal, but on the other hand they had fern trees towering 20 or 30 feet in height. Ferns are new friends with old faces. The lecturer concluded his able address by giving it as his conviction that the whole system of the earth had been built up by the hand of a good and wise Creator.

HOMOGENEOUS IRON—THE SYSTEMS OF PRODUCING IT.

An interesting paper on Homogeneous Iron and the degree of Homogeneity to be expected in iron produced by various systems of puddling, and subsequent working, by Mr. Henry Kirk, of Workington, was taken as read at the last meeting of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, in order that it might be discussed at the next meeting. Manufacturers of finished iron are, Mr. Kirk remarks, frequently blamed by engineers for not giving them the exact qualities required, and they excuse themselves by saying that the pig-iron supplied to them under the same name varies very much in its composition, and that they cannot make an invariable product from it. Smelters in turn complain of the minerals, and mineowners say that they can only supply such minerals as the mines yield. Thus everyone exonerates himself, yet the truth is, in Mr. Kirk's opinion, that no one of the departments is without its difficulties, and that if each instead of ignoring those of the others would patiently examine them, and endeavour to remove, mitigate, or neutralise them, in the end all would be gainers. The term homogeneous seems to have been first applied to iron about 20 years ago, and meant a comparatively pure iron manufactured by melting to low in carbon to be called steel—in fact, presenting none of its characteristics. But within the last ten years makers of homogeneous iron have appropriated the term steel, steel being something better than iron, and now there is a disposition to adopt the word homogeneous to iron produced by puddling, whereas puddled iron is not, and perhaps cannot be, made truly homogeneous. It is probable that the use of the term steel has much hindered the employment of true homogeneous iron in works of construction, for which it appears to be eminently fitted by creating false impressions as to its hardness and the expense of working it.

Iron may be homogeneous and yet contain all the elements usually associated with it, such as carbon, silicon, sulphur, phosphorus, and manganese; but iron containing cinder cannot be truly homogeneous because the nature of cinder is altogether different from that of iron—and, in fact, cinder does not combine with it at all, but only remains diffused through the mass. Iron produced by melting and casting into solid ingots, carefully heated and well worked, may properly be called homogeneous. Such iron has no right to the term steel when the carbon is not above 0.30 per cent., which is an amount sometimes exceeded in the very best brands of wrought-iron; for instance, an analysis of Swedish iron is given by Percy with 0.386 per cent. of carbon, and one of Russian with 0.31 per cent. Mr. Kirk gives the result of an important series of trials representing the whole of a puddled heat, both in tests and analyses. The sizes of iron are all the same, which is better for comparison with each other. The breaking strain is from 23 to 25 tons per square inch; the contraction from 31.6 to 50 per cent.; the extension, over 10 in. in length, from 20.1 to 25 per cent. An effort was made in this heat to get the carbon lower than before, and it gave an average of carbon of 0.131 per cent., against an average of 0.175 per cent.; but the sum of the phosphorus and silicon had risen from 0.133 to 0.243 per cent., and in one allied set of samples it is seen that as the carbon falls the phosphorus and silicon increase. Thus there was of carbon 0.180 per cent. in W. R. 3; 0.150 in W. T. W.; 0.115 in W. 5; and 0.090 per cent. in W. R. 5; whilst the phosphorus and silicon was 0.093 per cent. in W. R. 3; 0.260 in W. T. W.; 0.310 in W. 5; and 0.345 in W. R. 5. Some of the phosphorus and silicon appearing in the analysis of iron properly belongs to the cinder remaining in it. There is, Mr. Kirk considers, a probability that these oscillations of carbon on the one hand, and phosphorus and silicon on the other, are not accidental, but are really cause and effect.

A considerable amount of carbon often remains in the partly-puddled iron after it has reached a spongy condition, and the cavities of it are filled with cinder, which generally contains a good deal of phosphoric acid and silica. It is likely that some of the oxygen for the removal of the carbon is obtained from this cinder, and that it sets free iron, phosphorus, and silicon, which are added to the puddled ball. Colouring is lent to this supposition by the behaviour of puddled iron at the hammer, by the effect of a puddled heat waiting in the furnace after it is made into balls, and by the composition of puddled ball cinder. Frequently a slight flame is observed from a puddled ball, and when the hammer drops upon it, and the cinder is thereby brought into closer contact with the iron, it is immediately covered with the flames of carbonic oxide. When the puddled balls remain too long in the furnace the quality of the iron is greatly impaired; though the causes of this do not appear to have been investigated, it is a well-known fact cinder expelled from puddled balls is, he finds, invariably poorer in iron and richer in silicon and phosphorus than the cinder left in the furnace at the time the balls are withdrawn. He also found that as the carbon increases so does the stress at the fractured area. Mr. Kirk attaches much importance to the puddled-bar system, because any iron not properly worked when rolled off from the puddled bloom without re-heating tears into holes of various sizes, from the smallest speck upwards, by the action of the rolls, and when the pile is subjected to the heat of the furnace these holes allow the raw places to receive a greater share of the heat, and they act as receptacles for cinder, melting off the iron, both of which tend to purify it in a high degree, especially as this cinder is much superior to that in the puddling furnaces.

MECHANICAL FIRING OF STEAM-BOILERS.—At a meeting of the Society of Engineers, held on Monday evening, March 5, in the society's hall, Westminster Chambers (Mr. Thomas Cargill, C.E., president in the chair), a paper was read by Mr. J. Walter Pearse on this subject. The author first pointed out some of the disadvantages of hand-stoking, and observed that so far back as 1813 mechanical firing was proposed. In 1822, Mr. J. Stanley invented a stoker with crushing rollers and a single horizontal fan, to which, in 1834, he added rocking fire-bars. In 1838 Mr. Jukes patented his first stoker, and in 1841 he invented the endless chain of fire-bars, modifying it again in 1842. In 1863 Messrs. Wilson and Smith brought out their furnace in which the fire-bars were made to travel backwards, carrying the fuel from a hopper to the back of the grate, an arrangement which was improved upon by Messrs. Vicars and Smith in 1867. In 1870 Mr. Dillwyn Smith patented his stoker, in which the fuel is fed onto distributing fans revolving horizontally. This arrangement was improved upon, in 1870, by Mr. J. F. Deacon. Further additions were subsequently made by Mr. T. Henderson. The Henderson

stoker was then described by the author. In it the supply of fuel is affected in the same way as in the Dillwyn Smith machine, but the fire-bars are made to move by simple gear connected with the stoker. Every other bar rises and falls, while the rest slide to and fro, the effect of this action being to clear off the clinker. The Frisbie feeder, improved by Mr. J. M. Holmes, is for slow combustion and intermittent feed. The coal is thrust up underneath, and in the middle of the fire, so that the gases evolved are consumed on passing through the incandescent mass. This stirs the fire and propels all clinker to the circumference of the circular revolving grate. Mr. Holroyd Smith's "Helix" fire-feeder gives a continuous feed from below by means of a screw working in a casing connected at its upper side with a trough which takes the place of one or two fire-bars. The saving effected by these stokers was stated to be two-fold, first in the quality of the fuel used, and next in the quantity consumed, a reduced first cost being also incurred, owing to smaller boilers and fire-grates serving for a given power, with more perfect combustion.

CHEMISTRY OF GAS MANUFACTURE.—At the Society of Arts, on Monday, the first of a series of four Cantor lectures on this subject was delivered by Professor A. Vernon Harcourt, F.R.S. The first points considered were the natural formation and chemical nature of coal, the lecturer giving the various theories which had been promulgated with regard to the origin, or rather to the exact mode of deposition of the coal beds. The main changes produced in coal by the application of heat were then described—the process of gas manufacture, and the collection of the various by-products involved in the same, being illustrated by aid of a model of a miniature gas works. Various other models and specimens were placed on the table, and a number of diagrams lent by Dr. Frankland, Professor Tennyson, and others, lined the walls. The properties and uses of the various substances, solid, liquid, and gaseous, yielded by coal were then referred to, including, besides ordinary illuminating gas, tar, naphtha, carbolic acid, benzol, creosote, lampblack, anthracene, pitch, and coke. By indirect means, as the lecturer explained, chemists had been able to form from certain products of tar distillation previously enumerated—benzol and anthracene—a series of magnificent dyes. From the former material were prepared the whole of the beautiful aniline colours first discovered by Mr. W. H. Perkin; and from the latter, alizarin—the artificially prepared principle of madder or Turkey-red, the use of the natural dye having been thus practically superseded. The processes whereby these results were obtained from the formerly unpromising refuse material, tar, were among the most beautiful in the range of chemistry, and must ever be regarded as crowning triumphs in the technical applications of that science. The use of coke as a heating material for household purposes was warmly commended by the lecturer, its superiority for that purpose, as well as its economy as compared with coal, being strongly urged. In order to facilitate its use such reforms as had recently been advocated must be resorted to in our fire-grates in order to do away with the wasteful draught through the bottom of the stove, which only served to waste fuel. The true principle of heating lay in the production of as large a glowing surface as possible, a bright flame being in no way necessary or even desirable.

TESTING THE AIR OF MINES.—A peculiar arrangement of apparatus for facilitating the ascertaining at any moment at the surface of mines the composition of the atmosphere in the mine workings, the proportion of fire-damp therein, and the precise moment at which the mixture is about to become dangerous, has been invented by M. A. LEMAIRE-DOUCHY, of Paris. The essential feature of the invention, which it would be extremely dangerous to apply in connection with mines producing fire-damp, consists in the automatic and continuous withdrawal outside or to the surface of a mine of samples of the air in any of the workings, and supplying such samples to analysing apparatus for the purpose of their being analysed on the spot at any moment by any of the known methods or processes. A continuous air-exhauster is employed, which consists by preference of two closed vessels supported on the opposite ends of a lever capable of oscillating vertically upon a fixed centre. The first of these vessels is connected at its top by a flexible tube with a water-supply pipe, and at its bottom by another flexible tube with the top of the second vessel. A third flexible tube is attached to the bottom of the second vessel for the exit of the water after it has accomplished its object of expelling the air and forming a vacuum in each vessel alternately, the water on escaping from the first vessel flowing into the second vessel. These tubes are all provided with stop-cocks, which are opened and closed by tappets brought into action by the rising and falling motions of the vessels. The descent of each vessel is checked (until it has been filled with water) by the action of a counterweighted lever and trigger catch. On the tops of both vessels there are provided three cocks, one of which communicates with tubing with the subterranean workings or galleries of the mine, so that when the vessel is being exhausted a portion or sample of the atmosphere in the workings will be drawn into it. The other two cocks on each vessel communicate with analysers arranged for testing the air, or mixture of air and gas, by any of the well-known methods. As the water rises in each vessel the sample of air contained therein will be expelled through the last-mentioned tubes into the analysers, and when filled with water the vessel will descend by its extra gravity, and produce the requisite opening and closing of the cocks. The tube or tubes which descend into the mine are connected by branch tubes to a series of cocks situated inside the mine (one for each gallery or working), and from each of these cocks there is led a separate pipe to each gallery. Any one of the said cocks is capable of being opened and closed from the surface, either by the aid of a battery or magnets, electric apparatus, and electro-magnets, or by compressed air, or otherwise. In the case of using electricity the wires from the coils of the electro-magnets of the cocks are carried up to a commutator outside the mine, which indicates the several corresponding cocks below, so that on establishing a circuit through any particular electro-magnet the corresponding cock will be opened and the air drawn from the gallery or working in connection with the said cock. Facility is thus afforded for testing at any moment the composition of the air contained in any particular part of the mine. If desired, an electric bell or other alarm apparatus may be connected with the analysers, so as to give due notice to the attendant before the mixture of air and gas reaches the point of danger.

IMITATIONS OF MALACHITE AND OTHER STONES.—A process of decoration which is calculated largely to extend the use of terra-cotta has been invented by Mr. CHARLES BROCK, of the Watcombe Works, St. Mary Church, Devon. He mixes various earths and oxides, the colours and proportions of which will depend upon the special class of object to be imitated, and blends them at such a consistency as prevents their mingling too much together. He then covers the surface of the article to be decorated with a veneer or thin layer of the blended materials. He next glazes the surface with a lucid glaze, and submits the article to burning, the result being an exact imitation of the description of stone or marble desired, and which is more durable than the real stone itself. This process can not only be used for ordinary pottery, but is also applicable to a great variety of purposes, such as architectural columns, bosses, panels, inlays for furniture, columns for busts, vases, and other kindred purposes.

ENGINE SPEED INDICATOR.—The object of the invention of Mr. A. GRAVE HOBSON, of Liverpool, is to provide a simple, efficient, and cheap apparatus for indicating the speed of engines and their shafts, so that the speed can be readily ascertained by the engineer in charge, or any other person. In practice he attaches to the ordinary speed governor of, for instance, a steam-engine a bracket or bar having a graduated edge, being an index bar; and to the lever connecting the governor to the valve rod he attaches a pointer which may be a continuation of said lever. The pointer comes over the face of the index bar, and is so arranged that when the governor is at rest the pointer stands at zero, and as the governor rises the pointer indicates on the graduated index bar the number of revolutions the engine is making. Secondly, he attaches to the column carrying the governor a graduated index bar, and to the sliding sleeve of the governor he attaches a bar which carries a pointer,

and as the sliding sleeve rises and falls by the action of the governor the pointer indicates the speed of the engines on the index bar; and, thirdly, he attaches to the column carrying the governor a quadrant dial marked with different degrees of speed. The dial is provided with a pointer or finger having a quadrant pinion, and to the sliding sleeve of the governor he attaches a rack which takes into and works the pinion on the pointer or finger. As the sliding sleeve rises and falls the speed of the engines is indicated on the dial by the pointer or finger.

MINING AND STOCK EXCHANGE NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Messrs. F. W. MANSELL and Co. (Sworn Stock and Share Brokers), 43 and 43A, Palmerston Buildings, Old Broad-street, write to us as follows:—

THE "BONANZA KINGS"—No. 1.—Mr. John E. Mackay, now a "Bonanza King," is probably the youngest of all the world's great millionaires. Mr. Mackay was born in Dublin in 1835; when quite a youth he proceeded to America, and was for some years engaged in the office of a shipbuilder in New York. In the latter part of 1852 he joined a party that was going to the El Dorado of the West, and reached the Pacific Coast late in the winter of that year. Having a natural bias towards everything connected with mining, he at once pursued it as a business. His first employment in mining, he at once was in Alleghany, Sierra County, where he accumulated a small "stake," and then proceeded to Virginia City. Here he began a tunnel on what is known as the "Union ground," north of the Ophir, on the Comstock lode. Not long afterwards his funds gave out, and he worked for some time as a timberman at \$4 a day. At this period of his career Mr. Mackay was often heard to say that his greatest ambition was to accumulate \$25,000, with which he wished to make comfortable his mother's declining years. After many changes of fortune he became interested in a firm, which was afterwards extended by the addition of Messrs. Flood and O'Brien in 1864, and so continued until 1868, when Mr. Fair took the place of the senior partner. The first few \$100,000 of the now stupendous wealth controlled by this firm was made during their control of the Hale and Norcross Mine in 1865-7. The career of Mr. Mackay since that time has been chiefly noticeable for the active part he has taken in the incessant efforts made by the four partners to obtain further acquisition of territory on that marvellous deposit of precious metals—on the Comstock lode. Backed by their constantly increasing capital, their efforts have resulted in opening to the world the wonderful Bonanza Mines. When in Virginia City we "interviewed" this gentleman, who not only received us most courteously, but accompanied us throughout the vast workings of that great treasure-house—the Consolidated Virginia Mine. Mr. Mackay represents his firm at the fountain head of their resources, and although surrounded by every allurement that wealth can command, and the recipient of the revenue of an empire, Mr. Mackay is a frank, unassuming, hard-working business man, but as far removed from the proverbial niggardliness of the rich man as he is from vulgar pretence; his quiet but princely liberality to his friends, especially those of his early career, is well known. He owns three-eighths of the Bonanza Mines, from which his income is estimated to be over \$800,000 (160,000.) per month. It has been calculated, in regard to the total income of this youngest of the "Bonanza Kings," that each minute of the day and night \$25 (5L), golden dollars, drop into his pocket with mechanical and monotonous regularity—or rather, it would be a more appropriate figure of speech to say that that amount drops into his already drooping bank account.

A good deal of misconception has been conveyed to English readers by the ill-based information recently set forth in the Times by their correspondents' letters from San Francisco and Philadelphia. When reliable statistical data and information can, we know, be obtained from any member of the "Bonanza Firm," one is amazed to find the representatives of our leading organ publishing statements as to the condition of the Bonanza Mines, giving to English shareholders an entirely wrong view as to the value of their property. The San Francisco Stock Exchange says:—

"The shipments up to Feb. 3 on account of the California mine make the yield for the month so far \$1,151,028.12, with from \$150,000 to \$200,000 yet to come on February account. This removes all doubt concerning the dividend, and it is now announced that it will be paid on the 15th inst. as usual. The Con. Virginia dividend will be passed this month, but will surely be resumed in March if all goes well. There is now no doubt that both these mines have a continuation of the enormous ore body on the 1650 and 1700 ft. levels, and if greater care is used in extracting the ore from them there will be no difficulty from caves, faults, &c., which have so annoyed the miners on the levels above. It is said by miners of the Virginia City, who have the best means of knowing, that from the pitch of the last clay wall the indications are that the new developments will prove even wider than the ore body above. One man enthusiastically says that he believes the "bulge of the bonanza" will yet be found at the 2500 ft. level. With such favourable accounts as these it would seem to be no more than the square thing for the management to show up their discovery as quickly as possible, and give the boys a chance."

ISABELLE (Gold and Silver).—Mining has grown to be as legitimate as any other business, its success depending on the same qualities that ensure competency and wealth in any other calling; and its failures and losses can be traced to the same inexperience and recklessness that eventuate in lack of success in the standard lines of business. An industry that requires the mechanical and scientific knowledge that regulates mining requires cannot justly be said to be inimical to good habits or morality. The want of accurate topographical geological knowledge of the surrounding country is indicated by the mineral discoveries made almost daily. The particles of gold picked up on Sutter's Farm, in California, in 1848 have resulted since then in the enormous yield of bullion of about the sum of \$1,000,000,000 for California, and not less than \$250,000,000 for Nevada, besides the additional mineral wealth obtained from the other Territories and States through the agency of the original discovery. Many of the most profitable mines were brought into notice accidentally—the Oneida, in California, was discovered by a hunter, who chased a rabbit to some large quartz croppings, in which he found rich specimens of gold; the Hinckley was first struck in digging a cellar; the Wood-ile was the result of prying up a piece of rusty rock that outcropped, the undersides of which was speckled with gold; the Valenciana, in Mexico, was first discovered by a young Spaniard, who, after many privations, at last struck an immense body of ore, from which alone was extracted from 1787 to 1791 the sum of \$14,764,492, out of 134,188 tons of silver ore; the Comstock lode, in Nevada, which has produced about \$250,000,000 of silver and gold, was discovered accidentally; and one of the most noted mines of Sinaloa, in Mexico, was discovered by a pious *ranchero*, who, losing his rosary, remained in the mountains during the night searching for it. Having made a fire to protect himself from the cold, in the morning he beheld the stones on which he had rested his wood sparkling with silver.

But to the keen eye and experienced instinct of a trained gold and silver miner the "signs" and "indications" are almost infallible—the trend of mountains; the presence of tellurites in quartz, which contains crystals of felspar and carbonates of lime and iron, when the specky appearance of ore may be relied upon; the knowledge to distinguish between the different kinds of pyrites; the manner of inspecting quartz croppings, to discover pockets—ones of which yield in a day to two men \$30,000; the rounded and dome-like appearance of mountains, abraded through countless ages, from which the gold has been washed down into placers; smooth well-rounded hills and beds of gravel either near a stream or on the side or top of a hill; quartz veins and boulders; the beds and bars of ancient streams, especially where a ridge of rock extends across the channel, and where the gravel is shallow; or beds of streams which run dry in summer, which render examination easy; to follow float quartz or other indications to the veins; to know how to wash gold, and detect the minutest particles of mineral. These are some of the indications which naturally attract the practical miner; these, or some of them, are features so strikingly marked in the topographical geology of the network of veins, the croppings of which leave no doubt as to the early success of the Isabelle Mines—features that clearly point to the opening out of large deposits of gold on some of the veins, and in others (as in the Exchequer) of both the precious metals. The Isabelle group of veins has all the essential "signs" that miners regard as finger-posts to wealth.

EXCHEQUER (Gold and Silver).—The latest official advices (dated

Feb. 12) state that the long braces (35 ft.) for the hoisting-frame had reached the mine, and the manager hoped to get the new engine to work during the week. The old hoisting-works has been sold to the I.X.L. According to letters received O'Hara had arrived at the mill on Feb. 15, and was busy connecting the mill machinery with the furnace, when the mill would be ready to run. The weather continued remarkably open, and an attempt was being made to haul additional supplies from the mine to the mill. Mr. Arnott (of the Vulcan Iron-works), writing to the manager with reference to the prospective enlargement of the mill, states that the whole of the present mill is, in his opinion, complete in all respects. There can be no doubt as to the value of the ore, and no anxiety should exist in the minds of shareholders as to the actual results of the monthly clean-ups, after Mr. O'Hara's experimental runs have been finished, and such adjustments made of the machinery as he may consider necessary.

The delay in commencing to run the mill appears to cause some trepidation among shareholders, but allowance should be made for the locality and the season of the year. As already stated, Mr. O'Hara arrived at the mill on Feb. 15, and immediately set to work making the necessary connections between the furnaces he had erected and the mill completed by Mr. Chalmers. It should be borne in mind that Mr. O'Hara's payment, as well as reputation, depend upon the success of the mill runs; it is not probable, therefore, he would be at all disposed to risk both until everything was complete. As the furnace is worked by machinery, three or four weeks might elapse before Mr. O'Hara could get everything complete, and he, as well as the manager, may have taken into account also the effect of frost upon the pipes of the mill by turning suddenly hot water into them. Neither Mr. O'Hara nor Mr. Chalmers would be justified running this risk when waiting a few days there might be suitable weather. The winter, however, has been remarkably open, and in a few days probably there will be an official reply to the telegram sent by the directors enquiring if the mill and furnace had actually started. In the meantime, shareholders should await the result, and not be influenced by those who never saw a mine nor a mill, but who are quite ready to purchase shares when forced down in price to a low level. This expression of opinion is disinterested on our part, as we are ourselves buyers of the shares.

As stated above, the winter thus far has been open. A local contemporary, referring to this subject, says:—

"Thus far the winter of 1876-77 has been a remarkably moderate one for Nevada, having recorded less severe storms of snow or rain than any of its predecessors since 1882. The real benefits accruing from a delightfully moderate winter season, with storms cut out and sunshine left in the calendar, are far greater to our people generally than any damage that may have resulted or will accrue to the mining population from it. Notwithstanding that this section of the country has not been visited so frequently as usual by the "white-footed angels" from the region of snow and ice, still nearly all that have come have arrived at such favourable times that they have taken up permanent quarters in our timbered mountains and canyons, and it will be long past the sultriest days of summer ere they will leave us through our mountain streams in a pathway trickling with their own bright tears. In other, and possibly more comprehensible, language the present fall of snow in the mountains, with what we shall get later in the season, will be amply sufficient for all our needs as a mining community, and from the present agreeable outlook the mining season of 1877 bids fair to be as fully freighted with profitable results as any that has been experienced for years."

I. X. L. (Gold and Silver).—The last advices, dated Feb. 12, state that the new hoisting works would be complete in eight days. The north drift was in 463 ft. from cross-cut in the 200 ft. level. Progress had been somewhat retarded by a strong flow of water from the face. The drift for its full width is in quartz at the face and making in the hanging wall, enabling the manager to give the correct width of the lode. It may not be understood on this side what the manager's plans are. They are these—1. To drift to the ore body in the 200 ft. level.—2. To sink to the 400 ft. level.—3. To take out ore in the most advantageous points of operation.—4. To run to the ore body in the 200 ft. level for ventilating purposes rising to communicate with the O. K. shaft, which has been sunk from surface. With reference to the ore body in the 200 ft. level, the manager states that all the indications lead to the conclusion the body of ore is close at hand—lode widening, casing improving, and water increasing. The Buckeye adit is also being run to take out some good ore, and work is being done in the lower tunnel for the same object. Mr. Arnott, the contractor of the mill, states that the whole excavations for the foundations have been in solid rock, entailing a large expense to him as contractor, adding that "the mill just finished is one of the finest and best equipped mills in Nevada, and that in its erection he has done a great deal more than the contract required." The Alpine Chronicle of Feb. 10 says:—

I. X. L.—We hear that rich ore has been struck in the lower level of this mine, and that the drift is nearly at the great ore-chimney from which the rich ore was taken in the upper tunnel in the early days of this district. We look for a brilliant future for this mine.

EBERHARDT AND AURORA (Silver).—A correspondent from Hamilton City—a short distance from Treasure Hill—states that the vein in the ore chamber has enlarged considerably, and that a number of the miners discharged a few days previously had again been put to work; and adds that, should the fine weather continue, it would not surprise the writer to hear that Capt. Drake had started up the mill again, which at this season of the year would be an unusual thing. The official cablegram just to hand states that some ore has been found in the drift east from the old ore body, and the incline was looking very favourable. In the tunnel the rock was hard. During February the total expenditure had been 2000L, and the estimate for March was 2000L.

FLAGSTAFF (Silver).—According to our private advices, the various points of operation in this mine are fully maintaining their productiveness. The average output is 65 tons per day, yielding a net profit estimated at about 200L. Additional arrangements had been concluded that will probably increase appreciably the current rate of profit. The re-possession of this mine by its shareholders, and its remunerative condition, with other circumstances yet to be made public, tend to regain the confidence of English investors in American mines. Hitherto the fatal mistake has been the inordinate amount of capital with which, in most instances, American mines have been weighted. Failure has not resulted from the mines having been unworthy of exploration—on the contrary, we found by enquiry in the several districts we recently visited that, with two (or at most three) exceptions, the mines introduced upon our market had never been even superficially explored, because the subscribed capital instead of being applied to the opening out of the mines had passed into rapacious vendors' pockets; the few in which any prospecting has taking place had been left without working capital, but expected to provide it by revenue. American mines have been thus brought unjustly into discredit, but the cloud is now rapidly passing away; and by the initiation of the more wholesome principle of making vendors' interests exclusively identical with the success of the mines vended, it will soon become a great fact that American mines are a most profitable channel for the employment of English capital. Says the Salt Lake Tribune of Feb. 10: "The Flagstaff Mine, which is now regarded as one of the largest and richest mines on the Pacific Coast, is soon to be re-timbered and put in first-class shape."

PATELEY BRIDGE (Lead).—This week's official report states that the various points of operation progress satisfactorily. The 30 east is producing strings and patches of ore, indicating further improvement. In the 30 west the same vein is producing some lead ore, and is from 8 to 10 ft. wide. The south cross-cut, in the 20 west, to reach Lumb vein, is without change, the ground being hard and spar for driving, but letting out a strong feeder of water. The metal pitch, on new vein, has improved, producing 1 ton of ore per fathom. Fielding's vein, in the 20, over the north west drivage, is worth 15L per fathom. The metal pitch in the top part of the bed, in the 20, is producing 25 cwt. of lead ore per fathom. The Sun vein, going east, if 6 ft. wide, producing 1 ton of ore per fathom.

GENERAL MARKETS.—Business throughout the week has continued to range within very narrow limits. There have been no incidents to affect prices materially, or rather the items of news, favourable and unfavourable, so nearly balance that operators and investors have not known what to think, and maintain a reserved and expectant attitude. Foreign bonds generally have been firmer. As to the 1862, 1868, and 1873 issues, it may be mentioned that as the conversion has proceeded with such extraordinary rapidity

—considering the vast amount of stock to be exchanged—a date not very distant will probably be named when the balance of the Five Per Cent. Preference will be distributed, consequently those holders of the old bonds who still delay conversion not only keep themselves without their dividends but run a decided risk of forfeiting their right to the 33*1/3* per cent. of the preference stock; out of a total value of 44,000,000*L*, representing these three loans, a sum of fully 38,000,000*L*. has now been converted. Home railways have been dull, and what variations have taken place are the result of moderate speculative dealings. American railway bonds show a considerable advance. Miscellaneous securities with out special feature.

Meetings of Public Companies.

CEDAR CREEK GOLD MINES AND WATER COMPANY.

The adjourned fourth annual general meeting of shareholders was held yesterday, at the offices of the company, Austinfriars, Mr. GEORGE BATTERS in the chair.

Mr. W. J. LAVINGTON (the secretary) read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN said: Gentlemen, the report of our manager, Col. Ludlum, has been circulated among you. It has entered so fully and in such minute detail into all matters relating to the property that your directors have very little to add. The report is made up to Sept. 30. From that period to Feb. 1 he had been engaged in preparing chiefly for the present campaign or washing season. The present rainy season was very late in setting in; but by a letter received from him under date Feb. 10, which I propose now to read to you, you will see that he had a full supply of water, and that your property was in full work. He states: "On the 1st inst. we had an ample supply of water, though none in excess of what our ditches could carry. The new or Middle Canon Creek ditch has done good service; by its aid we have at times been enabled to run 2000 in. into our Alta reservoir, which would otherwise have gone past us. In the various claims we have been washing and working as follows—Baker Claim: Owing to the narrowness of our opening, we have only been enabled to wash about six hours per day, the balance of the time being consumed in the removal of boulders and in blasting up the face of the bank over the incline. We have, however, washed off nearly all the gravel loose by the three small blasts of which I had heretofore written, and by so doing have extended the north side of our 'A' pointed pit to the solid gravel. The point of our pit is within about 70 ft. of the shaft. We have one powder drift on the south side of the pit completed, and one on the north side, which is nearly finished, both of which I intend to explode within a few days. We can then wash on one side while working on the opposite, and *vice versa*, which will enable us to use water more constantly.—Star and Union Claim: Here we are washing off the slide referred to in former letters. I intend to strip off nearly all the barrens before washing any of the pay gravel. We have run this claim alternately with Baker claim, the water doing good execution.—Pacific Claim: Before we commenced washing in this claim we had a similar mishap to one which occurred at the opening of last season—a portion of the tunnel caved in, which it was necessary to repair before commencing to wash, and after that time it was necessary to do some dead work, which we could not do without water—mentioning in my last. As a consequence we have been able to wash but a few hours each day. We expect, however, by the 13th inst. to be ready to begin running day and night, and do not anticipate any delay thereafter till the run is completed. The Central continues washing day and night.—Gold Run Claim: We have been enabled to wash but a few days in this claim. There has not been enough water passing down Canon Creek this season to cut out the tailings at its outlet sufficiently to permit it to clear without the aid of the tailings from some other claims. As no other claims above it have been running steadily, this one has been enabled to wash but a portion of the time. It is supposed that the tailings from the Pacific will keep the Canon flume clear, in which case we will soon be able to run constantly.—Water Sales: Our water customers continue using water as enumerated in my last." That, gentlemen, puts us in possession of the latest information which we have from the mine. You are aware, for it has been intimated to you, that the Yankee tunnel has been completed up to the Baker shaft. It was the intention of your directors to continue that tunnel up to Deep shaft, but there has recently been purchased—and it is a very important fact to call your attention to—the Michigan claim, which consolidates the whole of the company's property from Baker shaft up to Deep shaft—an area of possibly from 200 to 300 acres. At all events, we know that to continue the Yankee tunnel up to Deep shaft would be a distance of 900 ft. Now, instead of driving the Yankee tunnel up to Deep shaft, which it was necessary to do before we have now a face of at least 500 ft. in width all before us, which we can wash away provided we have the water supply, without waiting to drive the Yankee tunnel up to Deep shaft. Not but what it may be necessary by degrees to carry up the Yankee tunnel to Deep shaft, but there is no necessity for us to do it for our present operations, having a vast face of gravel now before us, which is comparatively narrow, but which is being widened out by a cross drift, and where we can have a face of some 500', and use an immense body of water. That is a very important fact to call your attention to, for we had been led to expect that little good results could be arrived at by this company until we had the Yankee tunnel completed to Deep shaft. We have other claims, which you are mentioned in this letter of Col. Ludlum, that we are at present working on, but these are comparatively unimportant or minor points of attack compared to this main work of working on the Baker claim, which is now available to us, and from which we expect great results, inasmuch as we have the blue lead or bottom bed of gravel to work upon, together with the whole of the superabundant mass. So that after working a number of years to get this concern into proper working condition we have at last a fair prospect of seeing our hopes realised by having an unbroken field of operation to bring our energies to bear upon. The supply of water to these claims is, you all know, very large during the season, running about 600*L* in, or about as great as—rather more, in fact—than the volume of water brought into London by the New River. There is, however, one link in the chain that is wanting to make this a more continuous and a greater property, and that is the increase of our reservoir or water storage accommodation. Col. Ludlum has promised to send us a detailed report with recommendations on this head; they have not yet come to hand, but when they do, if the board consider them of sufficient importance, which no doubt they will, they will be printed and sent round to all of you. We know this—at a comparatively small cost, taking into account the large outlay already made upon this property, we might greatly increase storage accommodation for water. Your directors have had this question before them on many occasions; they have considered it very seriously, and if they could by any possible means have diverted the money, or a portion of the money, which has lately been raised, to that purpose it would have been done; but the driving of the Yankee Tunnel was a matter of life or death to us—it was a question of our very existence the getting up of that tunnel to the Baker shaft, and to secure all those beds of ground whereby we have an unbroken chain of mines and of ground up to the deep shaft. And that being our aim and object to accomplish, and not to try to do that at which we might possibly break down—two things of great magnitude at the same time—we thought it much more important to complete the Baker Tunnel to this point. That end has been accomplished, and it will now be our object to increase the storage of water at a very early period. Gentlemen, you have undoubtedly had to exercise great patience in this company, and your directors have had a very heavy work to pull through. Theirs has been very far from a bed of roses, but it is something to tide the vessel safely through the storm and into a port of quiet haven, and there is certainly a better prospect before us of seeing daylight than we have ever had for certainly some years past. As to the accounts themselves, I may say that they are truly and accurately rendered to you, they speak for themselves, and no explanation of mine could make them any better, nor by any enquiries could they be worse—they are just what they appear to be. The point I wished to mention was this—We have a mortgage in California of about 10,000*L*, which is the only mortgage upon the property. It may be desirable to have that mortgage brought here to this country instead of continuing it out there, for if there is any advantage in the rate of interest our shareholders ought certainly to have it, and it should not be given to the Pacific Coast men, to whom I fancy we certainly owe nothing, whereas we owe a great deal to the English shareholders. On the question of directors, during the past year we lost the valuable services of Mr. Rotch, barrister-at-law, and a gentleman always most useful to us, and attentive to our interests, but who from business engagements was obliged to retire from the board. Mr. Galup also tendered the same explanation, and sent in his resignation. In their place two gentlemen have been elected—Mr. Chadbourne and Mr. Clementson. Mr. Chadbourne is of very great use to us, as he is intimately conversant with everything relating to our property. His partner is now out in California, and he has promised to visit the mines, and send us a detailed report thereon, which we shall at once place in the hands of the shareholders. I cannot conceive without reference to another of our colleagues, Mr. Briggs, a gentleman to whom we owe much; I might almost say the company owes its existence to him, for he has come to the rescue not only with money, but with his valuable personal attention and services in every possible way. He is here to-day, at much inconvenience to himself, and when I tell you that he comes up from Yorkshire to attend your meetings, and when I further tell you that for years past your directors have had neither fee nor reward, you will acknowledge that it is something to have gentlemen of high commercial experience and ability like Mr. Briggs at the head of affairs. He has put his own money in, and put his friends' money in, and he stands like a true Britisher with his back to the wall, determined to fight the matter fairly

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and fully out. (Hear, hear.) He has, I may add, been in communication with Colonel Ludlam, and has received a letter from him, and I should like to call upon Mr. Briggs to read that letter to you. Gentlemen, I beg now to move, "That the directors report and balance sheet as circulated among the shareholders be received and adopted."

Mr. B. C. BRIGGS said: Gentleman, I have much pleasure in rising to second the resolution which has been put by our Chairman. I agree with much that he has said, but still I think that he hardly puts sufficient value on the prolongation of the Deep shaft. I do not despair of that by any means, and I do Yankee Tunnel to Deep shaft. As you are aware, Colonel Ludlam, in all his reports for competition of our work. As you are aware, Colonel Ludlam, in all his reports for several years past has stated that very large returns could not be expected until Deep shaft was reached, and certainly the result has fulfilled what he warned us of. The result of the last year has certainly been a great disappointment to myself, who joined the board only about a year ago, and must be so to all our shareholders, who, I trust, we hoped for better results. The reason of the poor result is explained very fully in Colonel Ludlam's report, and has been explained still more fully in other letters which we have received from him in regard to the large clay slide, which seems to have slipped down the hill and covered the claim, so that we have not received the results we expected. Our Chairman has alluded to something we have received from our manager at the mines. I wrote him at the time I joined the board telling him that I was taking steps to raise some additional capital, which I succeeded in raising, and of which about \$25,000 was paid in up to Dec. 1st, and sums have been paid in since that date, and there is something like \$10,000 still available for carrying on the work. Now, some of my friends made a stipulation that that which they subscribed should be exclusively used for the increase of reservoirs for the storage of water, and accordingly at that time I wrote to Colonel Ludlam to say that this was the express condition on which a certain sum was subscribed. I am sorry to say that up to the present time we have not received that promised report which Colonel Ludlam said he would send us as to this point. However, in this letter which I received from him, under date Jan. 25, he writes:—"Our distributing ditches are now splendid working order. We have the patronage of all the good water customers who purchase water in this section. Our water sales will be larger than ever before, provided we have a supply. This portion of our property is now in condition to be as productive as it will be, till we prolong the seasons by the construction of mountain reservoirs. In the Baker claim we are nearly within reach of the solid undrilled gravel, which I am confident will pay well, though not so largely as the Deep shaft. I really think that our outlook is very encouraging, and am anxiously awaiting the opening of the washing season." The value of the water property, I think, is undeniably. Very recently the value of the water property of that description has been shown by the purchase of the Yuba Canal by Mr. Hayward for \$50,000, and that proves the value of a supply of water alone, for the property I allude to did not comprehend any mines at all. It was merely just the power of getting a water supply. Well, we have a water supply only second, perhaps, to the Yuba Canal—that alone gives a backbone to the company, which I do not think other companies possess, and that gives me, as one who has advanced a very large proportion of the \$8,000, subscribed during the year, great confidence that although our report this year is not so satisfactory as might have been hoped for, still we have such security in the value of the property itself that we shall eventually reap the benefit of the whole of our expenditure. I have great pleasure in seconding that the directors' report and balance sheet, as circulated among the shareholders, be received and adopted.

The CHAIRMAN: Undoubtedly Mr. Briggs's remarks with regard to the continuation of the Yankee tunnel are deserving of the greatest attention and consideration. It is the desirable thing to do. The driving of that tunnel ought to be accomplished within a year if we had the means to carry it on. It will not be a very expensive operation. Colonel Ludlam tells us that at Deep shaft the gravel is richer than at any other part of the property, and far above the richness of other gravel mines; hence it is most desirable that we should reach that point, and that as quickly as possible. The driving of the Yankee tunnel and the increase of the storage water accommodation are the two points which ought to be attacked, and which are of immense importance to the future of the company. At the same time, we may, I think, congratulate ourselves upon the statements which had been read to us that the present prospects of the property are better than they had ever been. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. CHADBOURY: There is one point which I think seems to give as good proof as any that we ought to make money out of this property—all the ground from which we have hitherto derived our returns has been drifted ground, but henceforward we shall work on untouched ground.

The CHAIRMAN: I may explain, gentlemen, that drifted ground means ground previously worked. This great gravel deposit of from 100 to 300 ft. in thickness has been worked at the bottom, and taken away to the depth of some 7 ft., showing that this ground has been sufficiently attractive for men to work at it like a seam of coal. Now, however, we are entering upon undrilled ground, and we have a better chance than ever of getting large returns. We have driven the Yankee tunnel—our main tunnel with branches, a distance of 2,200 ft. That was an absolutely necessary work to get through before we could wash down this great body of gravel; and but for that we should have to have gone on like our predecessors had done, bringing it out by pure mining operations, with of course very small results for our labour. But now we have the whole face of the deposit before us, and can work it with the greatest possible advantage.

A SHAREHOLDER: Is it possible to estimate roughly the cost of carrying on the tunnel to completion, and the cost of making adequate reservoirs?

The CHAIRMAN: The total cost of sinking the shaft and driving the tunnel the remaining 900 ft. would be under \$50,000.

Mr. BRIGGS: In exact figures \$75,000.

The SHAREHOLDER: And to increase the reservoirs?

The CHAIRMAN: We have not yet received Colonel Ludlam's report on this subject, but we estimate the cost would be about 150,000. to 200,000. The figures are not large; there are no impossible and gigantic means required; but when you have no money even a small sum seems great.

The resolution for the adoption of the report and balance sheet was then put and carried unanimously.

The CHAIRMAN begged to move "That Messrs. G. B. Jennings and C. J. St. Alphonse, directors retiring by rotation, be re-elected."

Mr. BUTTERWORTH seconded the resolution, which was then put and passed unanimously.

Mr. HALLS moved that Messrs. Good, Daniels, and Co. be re-appointed auditors to the company.

Mr. HILL seconded the resolution, which was then put and carried unanimously.

On the motion of Mr. HILL, a vote of thanks was accorded to the Chairman and directors for their zeal and attention to the conduct of the company's affairs during the past year.

The CHAIRMAN, in acknowledging the compliment, expressed the hope and belief that at their next meeting the directors would be enabled to communicate more cheerful and satisfactory results.

The proceedings then terminated. —

COLORADO TERRIBLE LODGE MINING COMPANY.

A special general meeting of shareholders was held at the company's office, 21, Great Winchester-street, yesterday.

Sir CECIL BEADON in the chair.

The notice calling the meeting was read by Mr. F. ANDREWS, the secretary.

The CHAIRMAN said the shareholders who were present at the general meeting last summer would remember that the board were about to send Mr. Andrews, the secretary, to Colorado, with the view of seeing if some settlement could be come to with Mr. Hamill, the owner of the mine adjacent to this company's property, with whom the company had been in litigation for some time past, and which litigation there was little prospect of bringing to a satisfactory termination. Shortly after the meeting Mr. Andrews went to Colorado, and was absent nearly six months. Many circumstances occurred to prevent the progress of negotiations out there. First of all, the gentlemen chiefly concerned—Mr. Hamill and Mr. Chaffee—were American politicians, and were interested in the elections to the different offices in the new State of Colorado, and subsequently in the presidential election, therefore a considerable period elapsed before Mr. Andrews was able to bring those gentlemen to make any proposal which was at all likely to be acceptable to the shareholders. But Mr. Andrews was not unoccupied when he was there, because he was able, in conjunction with Mr. Henty, to effect a lease of some neighbouring mines, which the company had been working during the summer at a fair profit, which had enabled the directors to carry on the company without getting into debt, to pay the current expenses, and carry on the war without calling upon the shareholders.

Moreover, the mines of which they had obtained leases were likely to be a source of some real profit hereafter. Before referring to the real proposition which had been made by Mr. Chaffee and Mr. Hamill, he would remind the shareholders that Mr. Chaffee was in England last spring, and made a proposal to the directors to sell to the company the entire property of himself and Mr. Hamill for \$80,000, part in cash and part in debentures. Now, any proposal for a purchase in cash was out of the question, and, therefore, the directors informed Mr. Chaffee that they were not prepared to recommend the shareholders to come forward with any cash offer. As regards the debentures, the directors considered the matter very carefully, and came to the conclusion, taking Mr. Henty's report as a guide, that the utmost amount they could recommend the shareholders to pay for this property in the form of debenture was \$60,000. The directors had a good deal of conversation with Mr. Chaffee and Mr. Chaffee said that for his part he will be liable to take 20,000, in debentures for his own share of the property, and would be liable to incur Mr. Hamill to take 40,000, making \$60,000, altogether; but when Mr. Chaffee got back to America, Mr. Hamill refused to be a party to such a transaction, and stuck out for \$60,000, making \$60,000. The directors thought \$60,000 in debentures was too much to be paid off in two years, and that possibly the company could not fulfil the terms of their agreement, and that the mortgages could take possession of the property. When Mr. Chaffee was in England he (the Chairman) suggested something of the nature of that which was now about to be proposed—an amalgamation of the companies, upon the basis of their taking shares in the company, which was very much like the plan which was now submitted. Well, Mr. Chaffee said he was not unwilling to negotiate on such a basis, but in that case would at once put down his property as upon an equality in value with the Colorado Terrible property. He (the Chairman) asked Mr. Chaffee to consider the position of the company, which was an English joint stock company, having a quotation here, and it was not fair to put the properties down at an equal value, but if the company's property was worth 100,000, the other should not be valued at more than 50,000. The matter ended, and Mr. Chaffee went to America. After Mr. Chaffee's return to America a letter was received by the board, signed by Mr. Hamill and by Mr. Moffat, the agent of Mr. Chaffee; and after some correspondence the proposal now to be submitted was agreed upon. That was all the information which the directors possessed upon the proposal now submitted, and he must conclude what he had to say by strongly advising the shareholders, entirely in their own interest, to adopt the arrangement to which the board had

come with Mr. Hamill. The state of the lawsuit was this—that the hearing of it had been postponed at the instance of Mr. Hamill to July; in the meantime Mr. Chaffee had been elected a senator of the United States for Colorado, and Mr. Hamill had been elected a member of the Local Legislature, and the power of these two gentlemen, which had been considerable before, had become greater now, and it would be fatal for any English company to attempt to carry on litigation with persons in power there. The company had a little money in hand, but even supposing they were likely to obtain justice by an appeal to the Courts of the United States, the company had not the means of carrying on the litigation, which would probably occupy five years. Therefore, the sooner the shareholders come to an arrangement the better it would be for the property, and the better for themselves. The mine was practically reduced to the extent of 700 ft., and the valuable shoot of ore which they had been working when the operations were stopped two years ago was gradually trending to the westward, and going out of the company's property into the property which was owned by Mr. Hamill under the name of the Silver Ore Lodge. Again Messrs. Hamill and Chaffee owned mines which were covered by patents from the United States, and others for which patents had been applied for, and which they obtained to the extent of \$28,000. Therefore, the property of Messrs. Chaffee and Hamill was worth ten times as much as the property of the Colorado Terrible Company. On the other hand, the Colorado Terrible Company occupied a very advantageous geographical position, and the other property could only be advantageously reached by the arrival of the company's tunnel. If the property were put into one common pot, it was not an excessive proportion to give Messrs. Hamill and Chaffee two-thirds, and it was for the company to keep one-third, or a little more, for themselves.

A SHAREHOLDER asked what money they had in hand, and what amount would be required to develop the property? The CHAIRMAN said the company had still in hand about \$3000, and a profit was being made out of the leased lines, and no doubt if this proposition were carried out Messrs. Hamill and Chaffee would forego their option to the sale of debentures, and if that were the case there certainly would be no difficulty in raising a sum on the debentures.

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held last week.—Mr. Thomas Parton, F.G.S., in the chair. There were also present, among others, Mr. Peacock (vice president), Messrs. T. Latham (ex president), J. W. Field, W. North, T. Bretton, W. Spruce, J. Lawley, W. Blakemore, Alexander Smith (secretary), H. Johnson, sen., R. Evans, J. Broughall, &c. Mr. Walker, engineer, Birmingham, and Mr. Brown, Dudley, mechanical engineers, were elected ordinary members. The President explained that Mr. Henry Johnson, jun., was unable to read his paper on his Patent Colliery Wagon, in consequence of the March meeting following so close upon the annual one. Mr. Munro proposed that during the year scientific lectures should be engaged by the council, the president, vice-president, and several others considering the suggestion an excellent one. Mr. Peacock also took occasion to thank the members for putting him into the office a second time, and suggested that papers on mines management would be the most valuable the Institute could receive. The motion of Mr. Munro was carried unanimously.

REPORT FROM THE FOREST OF DEAN.

March 8.—The Coal and Iron Trades of the district remain much as they were last week, being exceedingly dull. Notwithstanding the lowering of the price of both coal and labour, many of the working colliers are making short time, in some instances only three or four days a week, and consequently the shipping trade is of a very limited and unsatisfactory nature. Many workers have left the Forest for other parts, and houses which three years ago could not be had, nor hardly sufficiently lodgings, are now both plentiful, notices "to let" being frequent in various directions. Yet, notwithstanding these sombre aspects of the district as to trade, labour, and population, the long-needed improvements are only now in course of construction. The Coleford Local Board has been engaged for some time in improving the sanitary character of the locality, much remaining yet to be effected, and is now laying on a service of water to the town; but, unfortunately, the contractor and the board have rather frequent jars and disputes, though it is hoped that all difficulties will be got over, and the work completed with satisfactory results. Perhaps the contractor has grounds for complaining that alterations are made in the amount of work to be done after the contract was agreed for, though it is only just on the other side to note that the board alleges in some instances that the contractor is scarcely up to his engagements. We just note the jars and disputes, but, of course, cannot pretend to say how far right or wrong the respective parties may be in the cases alluded to.

The sewage works at Cinderford being completed, excepting the connections with the houses, the sanitary authority has accepted tenders for the waterworks to be constructed. At the meeting on Tuesday at Westbury-on-Severn, when the said tenders were accepted, a discussion arose as to pumping water without steam machinery. Mr. J. A. Brain introducing the question, but the Inspector of Nuisances replied that the engineers well considered that matter at the time of their prospecting and survey, and were of opinion that self-acting plungers, water wheels, or cheap means proposed would work, and that steam power was a necessity. Mr. Carter said that the engineers employed were men of high character, and that they had acted on their advice. Mr. Brain believed that the work could be done cheaper by rams, &c., but after the matter had been ventilated it was proposed and carried that the following estimates should be accepted:—For the engine and boilers (Watt and Co., Soho, Birmingham), 1090/-; for the general works (Messrs. Phillips and Co., London), 300/-; iron pipes, &c. (Messrs. Lawrie and Co., London), 300/- total, 7888/-, the works to be completed in 10 months. Water is undoubtedly greatly needed at Cinderford and the surrounding vicinities, but at the same time the public works including sewage works, waterworks, and lastly the roads, will in the aggregate cost a heavy sum, and entail a heavy burden upon the rates, and coming during a time of unprecedented depression in the trade and labour markets will be unusually felt, which must be regretted, notwithstanding that the most enlightened of the district have long seen a necessity for amelioration in the outer and social aspects of the neighbourhood. Some there are who oppose all improvements on the ground of expense, and others by putting forth impracticable theories, but to wait for such to approach the possible would indefinitely postpone all public improvements.

The whole of the interest in the collieries of the Park End and New Fowey Collieries Company has been acquired by Mr. J. W. Sully, of Bridgwater, who has just purchased from the trustees of the late Mr. John Trotter two-fifths of the collieries named, which makes Mr. Sully the owner of the whole, having held three-fifths previously. The business will be carried on under the old style of Park End Coal Company, Mr. Sully's son, of Lydney, being trade manager, and Mr. J. S. Thomas colliery manager.

REPORT FROM THE NORTH OF ENGLAND.

March 8.—There is no change to speak of in the North of England Coal Trade since last week, but changes of considerable importance seem to be impending. The Durham miners met in council to-day, and discussed the proposed reduction of wages, the proposed sliding scale, and the suggested lengthening of the hours of labour. Their proceedings were private, but on making enquiry to-day at Durham I was informed that they decided to take the necessary steps for bringing about a settlement of the proposed sliding scale, and so dispensing with the threatened further reduction of 10 per cent. Their proposals will be laid before a meeting of the owners to be held at Newcastle to-morrow, and thereafter a meeting of the joint committee of masters and men will take place, to consider what arrangements can be come to. It is anticipated that if the owners can only see their way to make a concession of 1d. or 1½d. in the minimum proposed under the sliding scale, that arrangement will be carried out without much difficulty. The Miners' Association is making a great effort to raise funds for the support of the unemployed in the county of Durham. Meetings have been held at different places throughout the county, and resolutions have been passed pledging the men to subscribe 2d. per week in aid of the unemployed, the number of whom continues to increase day by day.

A very interesting excursion was made by the North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers to-day, to Bearpark and Langley Park Collieries, the former belonging to the Bearpark Coal Company, and the latter to the Consett Iron Company. It is considered by mining engineers that Bearpark is about the most perfect example of a well arranged and thoroughly efficient colliery in the county of Durham. Started some two or three years ago, with a capital of 200,000/-, the Bearpark Colliery has had the benefit of the personal superintendence of Mr. George Baker Forster, who has carried out the plans with a single eye to the utmost efficiency and economy. The company's royalty extends over 2000 acres, belonging to the Dean and Chapter of Durham. They are now raising about 700 tons of coal per week from the Busty seam, which is 4 ft. 6 in. thick, and found at a depth of 66 fms. They are, however, making arrangements for working the Brockwell seam, which lies at a considerably greater depth. The company have about 400 coke ovens, and some three-fourths of all the coal they produce is converted into coke. The waste heat from the coke ovens is utilised in raising heat for the boilers. The Langley Park Colliery is further up in the Lanchester valley, about five miles from the city of Durham, and, having only been commenced this year, is as yet in a rather crude state. The royalty is about 1400 acres, chiefly on the estate of the Earl of Durham. The company are now working the Harve and Busty seam, all their produce of coal being coked. They reduce all the Busty coal to small by two of Carr's patent disintegrators, each capable of breaking up about 200 tons per day, and the screens they employ, on Walker and Cole's patent, are quite unlike anything to be found in the county except at Elmsley and Wearmouth. The company work partly by a drift and partly by a shaft, the extreme depth at which the coal is found being about 56 fathoms. They have now 120 coke ovens, but propose to increase the number to about 300. After having seen the two collieries, and spent an hour at Ushaw College, the large party returned to Durham, where they broke up.

There is little improvement to note in regard to the export coal

trade. From Newcastle there were shipped during last month to London and other ports in the kingdom 197,372 tons of coal, as compared with 221,074 tons last year, and from Sunderland the total quantity shipped the same month was 156,789 tons, as against 159,882 tons last year. In the foreign exports there is an equally great falling off, and altogether the prospects of the future are far from encouraging.

In the Cleveland ironstone mining district there is a very great deal of depression. Some additional pits have been placed on short time, and the majority are doing much less than they were a month or six weeks ago. The ironmasters have in some cases accumulated large stocks, which renders it improbable that there will be a renewal of activity among the ironstone mines for some time to come.

The returns of the Cleveland Ironmasters Association for the month of February show a large falling off in the production of pig-iron as compared with the preceding month, but not more than may be accounted for by the greater shortness of the month, while the stocks in makers' hands have increased to the extent of over 10,000 tons, and now stand at a total of nearly 180,000 tons. The tendency of prices is downwards, No. 3 having been quoted on Tuesday at the weekly iron market at about 4d. per ton, although some sales were effected at a still lower figure. Prices are exceedingly unremunerative, and it is generally expected that some of the 112 furnaces now in blast will require to be blown-out.

The creditors of Anthony Harris and Co. held a meeting at Middlesbrough, on Saturday, when the statement of affairs showed liabilities to the extent of 40,173/-, as against 92,611/- assets.

There is a slightly better tone in the Chemical Trade of the Tyne, but the engineering and shipbuilding trades rather dull. About the finished iron trade there is nothing to say, the various departments remaining extremely quiescent. Prices are unchanged, and the prospects of the future are not considered encouraging.

A NEW ELECTRIC LAMP.*

This is a note communicated to the Academy by M. Denayrouze, in whose workshops the author has perfected the subject. The invention dispenses with all the mechanism usually employed in ordinary electric lamps. The new luminous source is formed by two carbon spindles fixed parallel at a small distance from each other, and separated by an insulating substance which disappears equally with the carbon. When the current commences to pass, the voltaic arc plays between the two free extremities of the two spindles. The nearest layers of insulating matter are volatilised in such a manner that the carbon and the insulating matter disappear progressively as combustion proceeds, a process which may be compared to the combustion of the wick and the wax of a candle respectively. This idea, which appears to be only a simplification, may lead to important results. The heat of combustion of the carbon, which with the ordinary regulators is lost in the air, is utilised in the fusion and volatilisation of the insulating material. The composition of the insulating material may be largely varied, but the author employs for the most part earthy materials. Substances ordinarily the most fusible, it is well known, are easily volatilised when introduced into the voltaic arc. Therefore such insulating substances as sand, powdered glass, or cements, may be used; the most simple mixture appears to be composed of powdered glass and sand.

The light, which is added to that of the electric light by the incandescence of the insulating substance, produces effects analogous to that of the Drummond light. Thus with a given electro-motive force a greater light can be obtained than with any ordinary regulator. With a single electro-magnetic machine of the ordinary kind, three sources of light can be maintained.

* P. H.: Comptes rendus de l'Academie des Sciences.

* From JAMES FORREST'S "Abstracts of Papers in Foreign Transactions and Periodicals, for the Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers."

JOTTINGS ON THE METALS—No. III.

By THOS. H. MILLER, Secretary of the Nascent Copper Company (Limited).

COPPER R.

Kupfer (German), *Cuivre* (French), *Cuprum* (Latin).

ARSENATE OF COPPER, of which there are two varieties.

1. Octahedral.—Colour: deep sky blue, sometimes Prussian blue, bluish white, apple green, and grass green.

How occurring, and general appearance.—It occurs in obtuse pyramidal octahedrons, the crystals being small, and aggregated into clusters, having a shining vitreous lustre, and are semi-transparent; in hardness being inferior to fluor spar. Fracture: lamellar. Specific gravity: 2.88.

2. Foliated.—Colour: olive, oil, and leek green.

How occurring, and general appearance.—It occurs rarely massive, and generally crystallised in acute rhombohedrons and oblique quadrilateral prisms, the surfaces smooth and shining. Internally it is glistening and shining with a diamond lustre. Translucent, passing into transparent, being somewhat harder than calcareous spar. Composition (according to Chevenix): oxide of copper, 51; arsenic acid, 30; water, 16=100.

Having thus roughly described the more important species of copper, and before passing to the reduction of the ore, I must apologise for the length of the article, in extenuation thereof pleading a desire, on commencing, to describe a few of the varieties to complete the account in as satisfactory a manner as the works at my command would allow me, and, therefore, any inaccuracies that may be discovered in this simple sketch I hope my readers will excuse, and considering my want of the proper understanding of these matters will pass them over.

Copper ores, as a rule, are impregnated more or less with silver, and sometimes gold, in some cases to so small a quantity as to be of

actual benefit or gain to extract, and, therefore, are intimately combined in the metal when sold. In hydro-metallurgy, or the treatment of ores by the wet method, however, the rule is somewhat different, the whole of the metals being roasted with such ingredients that they become soluble in liquors to be precipitated either in one mass or the several metals separated by its proper precipitant.

The amount of silver in copper ores varies so much that it is most difficult to give a perfect average, but I think we may, without fear, put it at ½ oz. per ton in the Spanish and Portuguese pyrites,

10 oz. in the ores from the Cape and from some parts of America, and 5 oz. in the copper ores of this country. Those from abroad are received at Swansea and elsewhere, ground to a certain size, and find immediate purchasers from the fact of their value in both copper and silver. Cornish ores being crushed to the same degree of fineness, and sold at sales about twice a month. I will now hasten on and give a rough idea of the several treatments of ore to enable the metal contained therein to be extracted and placed again in the market as saleable copper, commencing with the dry and finishing with the wet methods of treating.

The first reductions were performed by piling the ore in large kilns, and on heat being applied at the bottom the whole became gradually warmed, and a large portion of the arsenic and sulphur sublimed out, to be collected in proper chambers or allowed to escape. This process occupied about six months, at the expiration of which time the evaporation of the sulphur ceased, and when the ore was cooled sufficiently it was in a fit state to be smelted. Later on we trace improvements in the calcination, by which the operation was performed in about 12 hours; this was done by placing the ore evenly, and about 6 in. in depth, on the floor of a reverberatory furnace, and exposed to a dull red heat, which with frequent stirring, in order to offer fresh surfaces to the action of the flame, the vapours were rapidly driven off, to be collected or allowed to escape as circumstances allowed, the metals being thereby oxidised and left as a black powder.

The present system is very similar, except in the case of arsenical copper ores, which are first piled in kilns and heat applied at the bottom, by increased warmth the volatile matters are expelled, to be received in a continuity of flues, and therein cooling are deposited in a dirty powder as arsenic soot; the ore being raked from the bottom of the furnace and a fresh supply placed in the upper part, thus once heating is sufficient to roast any quantity of ore, or, more properly speaking, until the kiln requires renovating. No

withstanding the heat to which the ore has been subjected, it still contains a large percentage of sulphur and arsenic, to cleanse it from which as much as possible it is transferred to the reverberatory furnace, on removal from which it is presumed to be in proper condition for smelting.

The calcined ore is then conveyed to the flowing furnace, and a bruised lime-stone being sometimes added as a flux, a door is closed and air-holes are then plugged, and the heat raised as rapidly as possible, in fact, so much so, that after about five hours the interior of the furnace reaches a white heat. The doors are then opened, and the workman probes the fused contents to satisfy himself as to the

case the slag is skimmed from the top of the metal, and a second charge of ore added, the doors being again closed and heat raised, to be followed by a repetition of the probing and skimming operations.

The whole mass of metal that was contained in two charges of ore is then discharged in one steady stream into a large reservoir of water, which causes the settling of the copper in a granular form, in which state it is termed granulated coarse metal. The computation of the value of good metal in this condition is about 50 per cent. of copper, the residue consisting of iron and sulphur. To clear these grains from sulphur as much as possible they receive a 28 hours calcination at a bright red heat, great care being required that the whole does not go into a state of fusion. About 4 tons are generally calcined at one time, the charge covering the floor of the furnace to about 4 in. in thickness. The next operation is fusing about 30 cwt. of calcined coarse metal, the silica and oxide of iron combining to form slag which is skimmed off, and the remainder tipped into sand moulds as *blue metal*, from its colour. There are certain arrangements and alterations in these operations which must have to study, and in which great proficiency is gained. I refer to the assortment and mixture of the ores of the different varieties and qualities by which the metal is recovered in a high condition of purity without more handling than is decidedly requisite. For instance, where oxides or carbonates are at hand they are mixed and fused with the calcined coarse metal, by which means great advantage is gained, for the oxide of iron in the latter fluxes the silica in the former, and the copper in the ore thereby formed into a sulphur, in which condition it is fit for smelting; the result of this fusion being a mat, termed *pimpled metal*, from the peculiar manner in which small beads form on the surface of the ingots, indicating the presence of sulphur. If no oxides or carbonates are at hand to mix, the blue metal before referred to instead of running into sand moulds is again dropped into water, and is ready for another calcination and fusion.

The next operation is roasting in furnaces similar to flowing furnaces, with the addition of side doors for charging, and more air-holes in the bridge. The charge, composed of about 3 tons, is placed in, and permitted to fuse; the air-holes are then opened, and the mass allowed to remain in a semi-fluid state for a space of nearly 24 hours, and a slag is formed on the surface of the whole of the iron and sulphur, and is from time to time skimmed off. The proper effect of this roasting is a complete removal of all the impurities heretofore contained in the mat, and when that point is arrived at.

The operation of refining the metal, or bringing it into marketable condition, is performed by placing in a furnace with the flowing inclining a little towards the front door, where a small cavity or well is made. The metal being fused, a slag again forms, which is raked off, and the whole kept in until such time as a ladleful of the metal, being taken from the well and examined, sets with contraction; if favourable it is ready for the process of poling, which consists in throwing charcoal or anthracite coal on the metal to prevent oxidation, and the end of a pole of green wood (preferably birch or oak) forced to the bottom of the molten mass, violent ebullition takes place, during which any oxide or suboxide remaining is reduced. From repeated samples or assays taken the refiner is able to tell the progress of making, which is done by hammering and examination on breaking. When the refining is brought to a proper pitch it is ladled into moulds of about 14 by 10 in., and constitutes the best selected copper of the market. Improvements have been made, some of which have been in use, but most of them not being successful, have gradually been abandoned in favour of the only, although may be primitive, method. As I before mentioned, admixtures of ore are made by the smelters, the principal point aimed at being that one shall be smelted containing less than 9 per cent. of copper, and also that the ore shall not contain such impurities which, notwithstanding repeated operations, may lessen the quality of the metal, and consequently reduce the value thereof in the market.

Having made a poor attempt to lay before my readers a scanty outline of copper smelting in the dry, I will now make a brief sketch of the processes that have been adopted to extract copper from its ores by the wet method. To begin with, we observe that in 1842 Mr. Wm. Longmaid patented an invention for improvements in treating ores and minerals, and in obtaining various products therefrom; this process consisted in grinding iron pyrites and roasting with common salt in a reverberatory furnace, the sodium in the salt combining with the sulphur to make sulphate of soda, and the copper being converted into a soluble cuprous chloride state. In lixiviation these salts were washed out and precipitated by lime or iron, and crystals of sulphate of soda forming. This process (or a modified form thereof) was in use for several years, and finally abandoned about 1860. In this same year (1860) Mr. William Longmaid filed a specification for improvements in treating certain ores and alloys, and obtaining products therefrom. His process does not differ much from the preceding, except that in some cases he submits the ore to a preliminary calcination for sulphur, and the employment of a condenser for the collection of weak hydrochloric acid, which can be advantageously used in the subsequent lixiviation.

In 1870 Mr. F. Claudet discovered a process of separating the precious from the base metals: this is performed in a similar manner, so far as roasting, grinding, and lixiviation is concerned, but to the resulting liquor weak hydrochloric acid is added to keep the copper in solution, and a fixed quantity of potassic iodide is passed in, which causes a bulky precipitate of silver in the form of iodide, which is collected, and found to consist of sulphate and chloride of lead, besides the silver, which on boiling with metallic zinc reduces the iodide of silver and sulphate and chloride of lead, forming iodide of zinc, this latter being used over again to precipitate a further quantity of silver.

In the Hunt and Douglass process, the ores being in a state of oxides or carbonates, are treated with chloride of iron, by which the copper is converted into a chloride and the iron into an insoluble oxide. Where ores are in a sulphide state a roasting is necessary to bring the same into an oxidised form, after which the ferrous chloride can be used with success. This process is satisfactory in its results at Ore Knob, in America, but as yet has not been introduced into this country.

The last method to which I shall draw attention is the Nascent process, and as it has been fully explained in my letter of Sept. 16 I will simply repeat what is therein stated with reference to the manipulation as performed at our works.

In the case of ores composed of copper, little silver, arsenic, and tin, the whole is roasted to expel the arsenic, which on cooling is deposited in the flues, and eventually collected and disposed of as "arsenic soot," when this is effected the ore is withdrawn from the furnace, intimately mixed with about 10 per cent. of salt and crushed to a fine state, in which condition it is ready for a further roasting in the chloridising furnaces. This second roasting has the effect of converting the copper and silver contained in the ore into chloride, and for the purpose of extracting these the chloridised ore is removed to the precipitating house and placed in large tanks, and thoroughly lixiviated with hot brine, which has the property of dissolving chloride of silver, as well as the chloride of copper. The liquor is then run off into a second series of tanks, filled with scrap iron, which at once precipitates the copper in a metallic state, and this in its turn precipitates the silver, so that the resulting precipitate which falls to the bottom of the tank consists of metallic copper and silver, mixed with a little oxide of iron and other foreign substance. This, when collected and dried, is packed into bags and sold to the smelters. The ore from which the copper and silver have

washed out is taken and the silver recovered.

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en washed out is then stamped and dressed for tin in the usual manner. The precipitate usually contains 60 to 65 per cent. of copper, and the silver contents vary considerably, sometimes being as little as 70 ozs., and sometimes 300 ozs. per ton.

In conclusion, I would beg to tender my thanks to those who have taken the trouble to wade through this article, and hope to give abbreviated accounts of a few of the remaining metals, but, for more so would draw attention to the expenses entailed in reducing ores by the dry method as compared with those of the wet, being at least 30s. to 40s. per ton, the other from 12s. to 14s., tending to as much as 20s. in places difficult of access, or where materials fetch an extremely high price.

EXETER WATER COMPANY.

WANTED (immediately), an EXPERIENCED ENGINEER, to TAKE CHARGE (with another) of a CORNISH BEAM ENGINE and TWO WATER-WHEELS, at the Pumping Station belonging to the company, at Exeter.

Wages, 23s. per week, with house, coals, and candles. For further particulars, apply to The Clerk, 4, Bedford Circus, Exeter, to whom tenders are to be sent on or before Wednesday, the 14th instant. Dated 3rd March, 1877.

WANTED, a FEW GENTLEMEN, who would employ their time and money by CONTRIBUTING not less than £500 each towards SMALL CAPITAL necessary for WORKING SEVERAL RICH MINES OF HIGH PHOSPHATE OF LIME. The mines will be worked at a moderate rate, and the quantity of mineral obtainable being large, promises to yield a very considerable profit. The capitalists will retain the money under their own control, and have the entire management in their own hands. Large contracts can be taken to supply these phosphates to the English market. No purchase money or any premium whatever required.

Letters to be addressed "Phosphate," at Horncastle's Central Advertisement Office, 2, Queen Street, E.C.

WANTED, an EXPERIENCED FOREMAN ENGINEER, accustomed to Mining Machinery, to TAKE CHARGE of WINDING and PUMPING ENGINES, PUMPS, LOCOMOTIVE ENGINES, BOILERS, FITTING and ERECTING SHOPS. Must be a good draughtsman. Wages to commence with £130 to £150 per annum, with house, coal, gas, and water.

Apply, enclosing references and testimonials, to W. B. TURNER, Esq., Mining Engineer, 23, King street, Whitehaven.

CARDIGANSHIRE.

WANTED, a PARTY to JOIN ADVERTISER in WORKING a REALLY VALUABLE LEAD AND COPPER MINE, in complete working order. There are now on surface from 10 to 15 tons of lead, besides a large quantity of copper and blonde ready for dressing. This is no speculation, but a really sound investment, which will produce a splendid profit at once.

Address, "C. L. M." MINING JOURNAL Office, 26, Fleet street, London, E.C.

WANTED, a YOUNG MAN, about 30 years of age. One who has had some experience in GENERAL UNDERGROUND COLLIERY WORK. Salary to commence with £25 per annum.

Apply, by letter only, to THE CLIFTON AND KESWICK COAL COMPANY, Clifton, or Manchester.

Copies only of testimonials to be sent.

WANTED TO SELL, a COAL MINE in SAXONY; a BED of BOG OCHRE in IRELAND; some PHOSPHATE MINES in SPAIN.

WANTED TO BUY, FIVE HUNDRED TONS OF FULLER'S EARTH, in bone and ground.

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Associate of the Royal School of Mines,

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IN the MATTER of the COMPANIES ACTS, 1862 and 1867, and of the BOSCASTELL DOWNS TIN and COPPER MINES ASSOCIATION (LIMITED).—ALL CREDITORS or CLAIMANTS of the above-named Association, claiming to be entitled to be paid in priority to the ordinary creditors thereof, and who have not received notice from the Official Liquidator thereof that their claims have been already admitted, are hereby required to COME IN and PROVE their SEVERAL DEBTS or CLAIMS, at the Registrar's Office, Truro, on Monday, the 19th day of March instant, at Eleven o'clock in the forenoon; or, in default thereof, they will be EXCLUDED from the BENEFIT of any DISTRIBUTION made before such proof. And for the purpose of such proof they are to attend in person, or by their solicitors or competent agents, at the time and place above mentioned.

FREDERICK MARSHALL, Registrar.

Dated Registrar's Office, Truro, the 7th day of March, 1877.

MONDAY, TUESDAY, AND WEDNESDAY,

MARCH 12th, 13th, and 14th, 1877.

IMPORTANT SALE OF VALUABLE MINING PLANT AND MATERIALS, AT THE CRENVER AND WHEAL ABRAHAM UNITED MINES, in CROWAN, CORNWALL.

M. R. W. J. JOHNS is instructed to SELL, BY AUCTION, on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, the 12th, 13th, and 14th days of March next, at the CRENVER AND WHEAL ABRAHAM UNITED MINES, in the parish of CROWAN, in the county of CORNWALL, the whole of the valuable

MINING PLANT AND MATERIALS, thereon:—

Consisting of powerful PUNCHING MACHINE, screwing stock complete, 3 large double purchase winches, 8 arm capstan, about 20 tons rail iron, several tons of timber, large capstan ropes, about 1800 fms.; 3 1/2 in. steel wire rope; 30 ft. water wheel, 3 ft. 4 in. breast; 11 ft. water wheel, 3 shears, shaft tackle, large and small pulleys and stands, several wood shovels, picking tables, jiggling hatches and shovels, large and small scales, about a ton of weights, several squares of flooring, bushes, keives, 2 large wood tin hatches, ladders, gratings, 6 lbs. lithofracteur, 5 lbs. tonite, &c.

10 ft. 18 in. windbore.

1.9 ft. 12 in. plunger pole.

2.9 ft. 15 in. pumps.

1.12 ft. 15 in. working.

1.15 ft. 15 in. windbore.

2.3 ft. 15 in. matching.

1.9 ft. 8 in. pump.

2.12 ft. 19 in. pump.

1.12 ft. 16 in. pump.

1.14 ft. 17 in. bucket working.

1.6 ft. 16 in. doorpiece.

1.6 ft. 19 in. doorpiece.

1.6 ft. 18 in. windbore.

1.6 ft. 16 in. stuffing box.

2.1 ft. 15 in. matchings.

1.12 ft. 16 in. plunger pole, stuffing box and gland.

1.6 ft. 13 in. top doorpiece.

1.8 ft. 14 in. windbore.

1.1 ft. 13 in. matching.

1.1 ft. 11 in. matching.

In MATERIAL HOUSE.—Smiths' bellows, indiarubber valves, butt, about 3 tons of steel boilers, steel mallets and sledges, about 15 cwt. of brass bearings and valves, several tons of new and old ropes, lot of safety, several hundredweights of patent nails, new and old sheet lead, grease, oil, hints, wire rope, old files, &c.

In SMITH'S SHOP—40 in. smiths' bellows, 6 anvils, 3 large cranes, vice, mandrills, tongs, punches and swedges, rod pins, kibble moulds and plates, bolt tools, several tons of new and used iron, spanners, forge, cranes, &c.

In FITTING SHOP.—Large crane with winch attached, several treble, double, and single iron blocks, boiler tester, vices, 3 lifting jacks, 1 hydraulic ditto, chains, bolt, burrs, &c.

In CARPENTERS' SHOP.—About 100 ft. carpenters' benching, sawing tools, crowbars, cans, hooks, lot of wheel and hand barrows, piece of 19 in. pitch pine, grinding stones and frames, Norway bark, useful timber, &c.

Also a wrought iron steam dry tube, 54 ft. by 3 ft. 8 in., miners' chests, &c.

Also an excellent weighbridge, by Huxham and Brown, calculated to weigh 10 tons, together with a small quantity of tin leavings, and a very large assortment of other materials and effects suitable for mining purposes.

The Auctioneer respectfully invites the particular attention of merchants, mine agents, and others to the above very valuable mining plant and materials, the whole of which was carefully selected at an enormous outlay, and will be found on inspection to be in good condition. The roads to the mines are convenient, and every facility is afforded by land carriage.

Sales to commence each day at Eleven o'clock.

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ALL the PUMPING, WHIM, and other ENGINES, BOILERS, CALCINER, PNEUMATIC STAMPS, CRUSHER, and other MACHINERY are to be DISPOSED OF by PRIVATE TREATY.

For particulars and price apply to the said Mr. GOOD, or to the Auctioneer.

Dated February 14th, 1877.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE, IN THE FOREST OF DEAN.

TWO VALUABLE GALES or COLLIERIES, known as the RISING SUN ENGINE COLLIERIES (freehold) and UNION COLLIERIES (long leasehold), extending together over about 520 acres, and comprising several VALUABLE SEAMS of COAL, with good railway accommodation. The property is situated about three miles from Coleford and four from Lydney, intersected by the Blandford and Dore Hill Valleys, and is on the Severn and Wye Railway, connecting Lydney on the Bristol Channel with Lydbrook on the Ross and Monmouth line, a branch of which line runs through the property. These collieries are well worthy the attention of collierymen and enterprising colliers, as shafts can be opened without any unusual expense, and with the certainty of finding coal, obviating the risk commonly attendant on the opening of new collieries.

MESSRS. DANIEL SMITH, SON, AND OAKLEY have received instructions to OFFER the above VALUABLE PROPERTIES FOR SALE, BY AUCTION, at the Mart, Tokenhouse-yard, E.C. (unless previously sold or let by private contract), on Wednesday, the 14th of March, in Two Lots.

Lot 1 will comprise the RISING SUN ENGINE COLLIERIES (200 acres), and Lot 2 the UNION COLLIERIES (330 acres). The vendors are prepared to negotiate for the letting of these mines at improved royalties. The royalties payable are moderate, and the purchasers will be entitled to work a very large quantity of coal without payment in respect of the dead rent already paid.

Particulars and plans may be obtained of Messrs. GRAHAM AND SONS, Solicitors, Abingdon, Berks; or of Messrs. PRIOR, BIGG, CHURCH, and ADAMS, Solicitors, 61, Lincoln's Inn-fields, W.C.; at the Bell Hotel, Gloucester; at the Mart; and of the Auctioneers, 10, Waterloo place.

VALUABLE MINING PROPERTY FOR SALE.

PRELIMINARY ADVERTISEMENT.

THERE WILL BE SOLD, BY PUBLIC AUCTION, within the Chambers of the Liquidator, 115, Wellington-street, Glasgow, on Friday, the 22nd day of June, 1877, at Twelve o'clock noon, the PROPERTY OF THE CONCORDIA COPPER COMPANY,

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As situated in Namqualand, in the Colony of the Cape of Good Hope. The property consists of—(1). The Leases of about 350 acres of Land, containing Five Mines which have been partially worked and explored.—(2). The Buildings at the Mines, consisting of manager's residence, offices, blacksmiths' shops, stables, &c., and three ranges of buildings, containing workmen's houses, stores, &c.—(3). Machinery, consisting of horizontal Engine, water lift, pumping gear, &c.

The Liquidator is also PREPARED to SELL the office and house furniture, the stores of wood, iron, steel, rope, and mining utensils (the latter amounting as per inventory to about £2000), and the purchaser of the above will have the option of acquiring these at a valuation or otherwise, as may be arranged.

For further information, apply to JAMES MACROBIE, Liquidator, 115, Wellington-street, Glasgow.

FOR SALE—PRICE £3000.

RED HEMATITE IRON ORE MINE—LIMESTONE FORMATION, near COAL MEASURES. The ore is identical in character with that produced in West Cumberland and North Lancashire, and there is (in South Staffordshire) a good market for it at net prices, equal to those realised for the ores of these districts. Payments easy to a good buyer.

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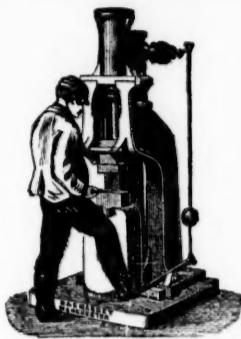
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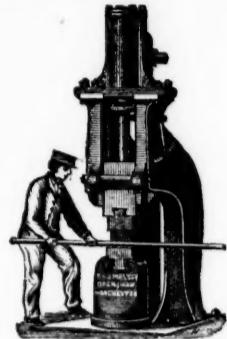
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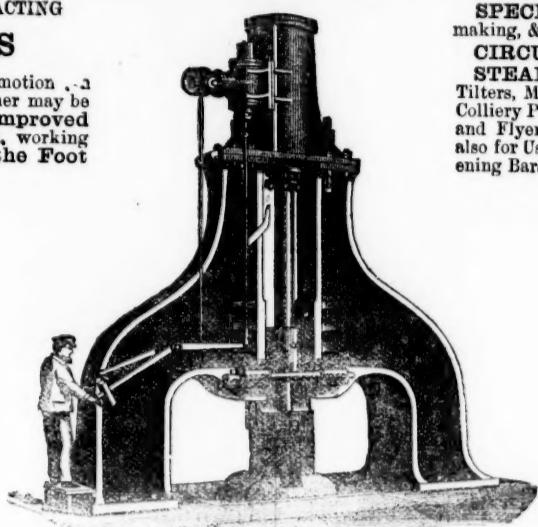
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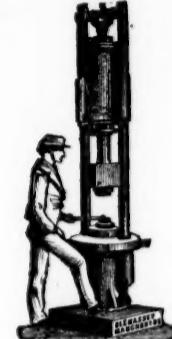
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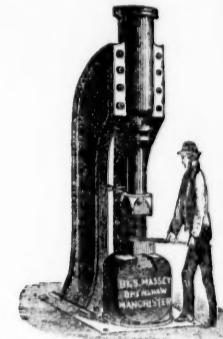
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Steam Hammer for Heavy Forging.



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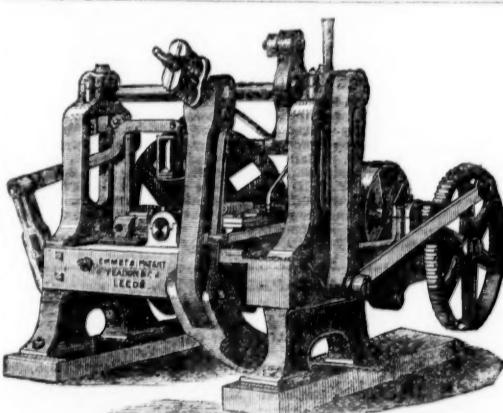
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BRITISH DIVIDEND MINES.

Shares.	Mines.	Paid.	Last wk.	Clos. pr.	Total div.	Per sh.	Last pd.
100 Alderley Edge, c, Cheshire*		10 0 0	—	—	12 11 8	0 5	Jan. 1876
15000 Balmynheer, t, Wendron (4000 to ls.)		1 0 0	—	—	0 2 0	0 2	Nov. 1875
30000 Bampyfide, c, t, m.s., Devon*		1 0 0	—	—	1 16 15 15	0 2 0	0 3 0. June 1873
200 Totalack, t, c, St. Just*		119 5 0	30	25 80	619 15 0	0 8	0 0 0. Aug. 1873
4000 Brookland, c, Buckfastleigh		1 18 0	2 12	2 12	3 18 0	0 2 0	Nov. 1875
2000 Bryn Alyn, t, Denbigh (10. sh.)		8 0 0	8 1 2	0 7 0	0 7 0	0 0 0	Jan. 1877
5545 Cargoil, s, Newlyn*		6 8 0	5 1 2	5 1 2	6 18 3	0 1 2	Oct. 1875
6400 Cashwell, t, Cumberland*		2 10 0	2 12	1 9 6	1 9 6	0 2 0	Aug. 1876
1000 Carn Brea, c, t, Illogan §		16 0 0	37	35 37 2	398 0	0 1 0	Feb. 1874
2450 Cook's Kitchen, t, Illogan §		23 9 9	3 1 2	2 1 2	11 17 0	0 7 6	Jan. 1873
10240 Devon Gt. Consols, c, Tavistock*		1 0 0	4 1 2	4 1 2	116 10 0	0 12 0	May 1872
4298 Dolcath, t, c, Camborne		10 14 10	37	35 37 2	111 1 3	0 7 6	Jan. 1877
6000 East Black Craig*, t, Scotland		5 0 0	6 1 2	6 1 2	0 10 0	0 10 0	Oct. 1871
6144 East Cadron, t, St. Cleer		2 14 6	1 1 2	1 1 2	14 19 0	0 2 0	Oct. 1872
300 East Darren, t, Cardiganshire		32 0 0	—	—	235 10 0	0 1 0	Aug. 1876
6400 East Pool, t, c, Illogan		0 9 9	11 1 2	10 11	14 18 3	0 2 0	Dec. 1876
2500 Foxdale, t, Isle of Man*		25 0 0	—	—	82 5 0	0 10 0	Feb. 1876
40000 Glasgow Carr, c* (30,000 £1 p., 10,000 15s. p.)		13 4	1 1 14	0 12 4	0 6	0 0 0	Mar. 1876
15000 Great Dylife, t, Montgomeryshire		4 0 0	5	4 5	0 2 6	0 2 8	Apr. 1876
15000 Great Laxey, t, Isle of Man*		4 0 0	21	20 21 14	21 3 0	0 10 0	Jan. 1876
615 Great Retallack, t, b, Perranzabuloe		5 18 6	1 1 2	0 1 6	0 1 6	0 0 0	May 1876
25000 Great West Van, t, Cardigan*		2 0 0	12	12	0 2 0	0 1 0	Aug. 1874
5908 Great Wheal Vor, t, c, Helston§		41 12 6	3 1 2	15 19 6	0 2 6	0 0 0	June 1876
6400 Green Hurth, t, Durham		0 8 0	3	2 1 2	1 12 0	0 4 0	Oct. 1874
20000 Grogwinion, t, Cardigan*		2 0 0	5 1 2	4 1 2	0 12 0	0 4 0	Feb. 1877
9830 Gunnislake (Clitters), t, c		5 5 0	2 1 2	2 1 2	0 13 9	0 1 0	Oct. 1876
1024 Herodsfoot, t, near Liskeard		8 10 0	2 1 2	2 1 2	62 5 0	0 15 0	Oct. 1872
18000 Hindston Down, c, Calstock*		1 0 0	2 1 2	2 1 2	0 1 0	0 1 0	Nov. 1875
6000 Holm bush, a, c, t, Callington*		1 0 0	1 1 2	1 1 2	0 1 0	0 0 0	Mar. 1871
25000 Ilmuae, s, Tipperary		1 0 0	12	12	0 3 11 6	0 5 6	Mar. 1873
40000 Lislurine, t, Cardiganshire		18 15 0	80	70 80	379 10 0	1 0 0	Jan. 1873
14000 Llanddios, t, Montgomery		3 0 0	3	2 2	0 9 0	0 4 6	Nov. 1878
6120 Lovell, t, Wendron		0 15 0	—	—	0 17 6	0 1 6	Jan. 1874
9000 Mawley, c, Linkinhorne		5 0 6	1 1 2	1 1 2	7 15 0	0 2 0	Jan. 1876
11000 Meindur Valley, t, Culligan*		3 0 0	1 1 2	1 1 2	0 7 2	0 3 0	Jan. 1875
9000 Minera Mining Co., t, Wrexham*		5 0 0	21	19 21	66 16 2	0 0 0	Feb. 1877
20000 Mining Co. of Ireland, c, t, l*		7 0 0	5 1 2	5 1 2	0 1 0	0 1 0	Nov. 1875
512 North Busy, c, Chacewater		3 9 6	8 1 2	8 1 2	0 10 0	0 10 0	Dec. 1875
10589 North Hende, t, Wales		2 10 0	—	—	1 7 6	0 2 6	Dec. 1876
2000 North Levant, t, c, St. Just*		12 2 0	—	—	4 13 0	0 12 0	Sept. 1876
21855 Old Treburret, s, t, ordinary shares		1 0 0	—	—	0 9 0	0 0 0	Feb. 1874
9258 Old Treburret, s, t, (10 per cent. pref.)		0 10 0	1 1 2	1 1 2	0 1 4 5	0 0 0	Oct. 1874
6000 Penhalls, t, St. Agnes		8 0 0	2 1 2	2 1 2	3 13 6	0 2 0	July 1874
6793 Penstruthal, t, c, Gwennap		2 0 0	—	—	0 2 8	0 0 0	Aug. 1874
12000 Phoenix, t, c, W. Phoenix, t, L. Link*		3 4 9	4 1 2	4 1 2	0 2 6	0 4 0	Nov. 1872
15000 Prince Patrick, t, t, Holywell		1 0 0	2 1 2	2 1 2	0 14 0	0 1 2	Jan. 1872
1120 Providence, t, t, Lelant		19 6 7	2 1 2	2 1 2	104 12 6	0 10 0	Dec. 1872
12000 Roman Grav. ls., Salop*		7 10 0	14	13 14	7 1 6	0 8 0	Mar. 1873
512 South Cadron, t, St. Cleer		1 5 0	125	115 125	734 0	0 3 0	Jan. 1877
6123 South Conduor, t, c, Camborne		6 5 6	6 5 6	2 6 0	0 1 0	0 0 0	Jan. 1877
12000 St. Harmon*, t, Montgomery		3 0 0	3 1 2	3 1 2	0 3 0	0 3 0	Jan. 1877
12000 St. Harmon*, t, t, (4000 sh. issued)		1 0 0	—	—	0 7 0	0 0 0	Jan. 1877
12000 Tawkerke, t, Salop		20 0	20	19 21	50 3 6	0 5 0	Dec. 1876
15000 Van, t, Llanddios*		4 5 0	—	—	19 19 6	0 8 0	Dec. 1876
3000 W. Chiverton, t, Perranzabuloe*		12 10 0	19	19 19	55 0	0 10 0	Dec. 1876
1732 West Poldice, St. Day		10 0 0	13	11 13	1 19 0	0 4 0	July 1872
612 West Toijus, c, Redruth		98 10 0	61	49 60	18 15 0	0 1 0	Feb. 1876
2045 West Wheal Frances, t, Illogan		27 13 9	5 1	4 2 5	3 12 6	0 8 0	Dec. 1872
12000 West Wye Valley*, t, Montgomery		17 2 6	3 1 2	3 1 2	0 6 0	0 3 0	Nov. 1876
1024 Wheal Eliza Consol, t, St. Austell		20 0	9	7 9	638 10	0 10 0	Aug. 1872
2045 Wheal Jane, t, Kew		2 13 10	2	1 1 2	10 0 0	0 4 0	Feb. 1874
4255 Wheal Kitty, t, St. Agnes		5 8 6	3 1 2	3 1 2	8 5 0	0 8 0	July 1872
80 Wheal Owles, t, St. Just*		86 2 0	140	130 140	522 10 0	0 4 0	Aug. 1875
6000 Wheal Prussia, t, St. Redruth		2 10 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	0 3 0	0 2 0	Dec. 1875
25000 Wicklow, c, s, t, Wicklow		2 10 0	—	—	62 9 0	0 2 8	Mar. 1876
10000 Wye Valley, t, Montgomery*		3 0 0	—	—	6 10 6	0 4 0	Oct. 1876

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Shares.	Mines.	Paid.	Last Pr.	Clos. Pr.	Last Cal.
85500 Alamillos, t, Spain*		2 0 0	2 1 2	1 16 3	0 1 6
30000 Almada and Trito Consol., s*		1 0 0	1 1 2	0 6 8	0 1 0
20000 Australian, c, South Australia*		7 7 6	2 1 2	0 18 0	0 2 6
10000 Baffin Mountain, t, c (6240 part pd.)		6 0 0	—	0 10 0	0 10 0
15000 Birdseye Creek, g, California*		4 0 0	7 4	3 1 2	0 14 0
12320 Burr Burra, c, So. Australia		5 0 0	—	70 0	0 0 0
20000 Cape Copper Mining*, t, So. Africa*		7 0 0	41	40 42	26 15 0
40000 Cedar Creek, g, California*		5 0 0	3 1 2	3 1 2	0 5 0
15000 Chicago, s, Utah*		10 0 0	5	4 4 6	2 8 0
21000 Colorado Terrible, s, t, Colorado*		8 0 0	2 1 2	1 13 14	0 13 6
10000 Copiapo, c, Chile* (20 shares)		15 15 0	—	—	7 8 5
10000 Dof Pedro North del Rey*		15 0 0	3 1 2	2 5 9	2 0 0
28500 Eberhardt and Aurora, t, Nevada*		1 0 0	—	—	1 8 0
50000 Emma, t, g, t, Utah		20 0 0	5 1 2	3 1 2	12 13 0
70000 English and Australian, c, t, S. Aust.		2 10 0	1 1 2	1 1 2	0 1 0
30000 Flaggat, t, Utah		10 0 0	—	—	4 2 0
25000 Fortune, t, Spain*		2 0 0	7	6 2 6	0 4 0
55000 Fronton & Bolivia, g, New Gran.*		2 0 0	1 1 2	1 1 2	0 1 0
20000 Gold Run, Ayd.		1 0 0	—	—	0 2 4
65000 Kupunda Mining Co., Australia*		1 0 0	—	—	0 2 4
20000 Last Chance, t, Utah		5 0 0	1	1 1 2	0 14 0
15000 Linares, t, Spain*		3 0 0	7 1 2	6 1 2	16 8 2
55000 London and California, p*		2 0 0	7 1 2	6 1 2	9 0 0
7837 Lusitanian, Portugal* (55 shares)		3 10 0	—	—	0 1 0
5000 Mammoth Copperopolis					